

FLORIDA FOCUS

Published Five Times Annually by the
Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Volume 17, Number 5 • November–December, 2001



2 0 0 2

A SPIRIT OF RENEWAL ACROSS THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE



PHOTOS: © 2001 PHOTODISC, INC.



CINDY KURTZHALS

**Lewis Hendershot,
president**

This past year has brought some momentous events into our lives. The extended election process for a U.S. president, the sharp downswing in our economy, and, of course, the tragic events of September 11. None of us knows what the future holds, yet, with confidence, we know Who holds the future.

Considering the times in which we live, we believe it is appropriate to initiate a spirit of renewal in the

Florida Conference. Therefore, our theme throughout next year will be **RENEW 2002**.

A short video will be shown in churches on the second or third Sabbath in January explaining our theme.

Every member will be provided with a bookmark—with the commitment you see to the right—that can be kept in their Bibles as a constant reminder throughout the year.

Churches can utilize this theme in whatever way they feel may best fit into their overall program. One pastor
—continued on page 2

**HEART TO HEART
Watch for President
Hendershot's video
message at your
church in January.**

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



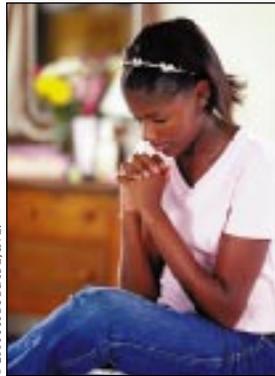
—continued from page 1

suggested that he would take each of the four renewal statements and highlight one per quarter throughout the year. This is an excellent idea and I encourage others to plan in a similar way.

Please keep in mind that the idea we are fostering is not to dictate to our churches any particular program. Instead, it is to call all of us to a deeper level of renewal with Christ as we see the day of His return approaching.

Additionally, we are supplying every church and school in the Florida Conference with the new *It Is Written* DVD program—a packet designed to share the Advent message with people in a very simple way. We are encouraging all of our pastors to hold an evangelistic meeting during 2002. These evangelistic meetings will not all look the same. Some will be full campaigns, others will be reaping meetings,

while still others will be more creative. The emphasis is that we are all preaching the message while we utilize our own style and gifts as we proclaim the everlasting gospel. We are also encouraging many of our lay men and women to conduct either home evangelis-



© 2001 PHOTODISC, INC.

tic meetings with the DVD program or do so in a public meeting.

2002 will be an exciting year as we support one another in proclaiming the Advent message. Then, we can all watch the marvelous ways in which God will take responsibility for the results.

LAUDERHILL PATHFINDERS SPREAD HOLIDAY JOY

Lauderhill Pioneer Pathfinder Club members prayed before last year's holiday season for God to guide them to someone in need. A plea came from the Women In Distress Family and Children Center. The Pathfinders responded.

The young people and their leaders appealed to church members, businesses, friends, and co-workers for donations of clothing, toys, canned goods, and children's Bible story books. A few days before Christmas, Pathfinders and their parents delivered the gifts to the Center.

"We felt God led us to the right place," said Alicia Pitter, Pathfinder director last year. "The need of the residents was so great."

The Pathfinders, convinced that God worked through their hands, asked if they could return to the Center this 2001 holiday season. Director Ervin Hudson, return-



LINCOLN LLEWELYN

Lauderhill Pathfinders and their parents break from wrapping packages before delivering them to the Women In Distress Family and Children Center. Alicia Pitter, front right, director in 2000, and deputy director, Samuel Muir, in uniform, coordinated the holiday outreach.

ing from a one-year leave, contacted the Center in July to express interest in coming back. The appreciative response inspired Club members to begin this year's gift collection drive in October.

"Reaching out to others during the holiday season is such a rewarding experience," says Hudson. Still fresh in his memory is Christmas, 1999, when that year he led gift-

laden Pathfinders to needy homes referred by the Salvation Army.

This year, battered women and abandoned children will, again, feel God's love through the hearts and hands of the Lauderhill Pathfinders.

—Alicia Pitter,
Martin Butler

HOSPITAL COMPLIMENTED

"My father arrived via helicopter. As the doctor installed a stent in his heart, my family and I went downstairs to eat. What an awesome feeling it was to see the scriptures on the walls and the name of Jesus exalted. It reminded me of Who really held my father's life in His hands. Thank you for lifting my spirits. It was obvious that you have orchestrated the atmosphere to welcome the presence of my Lord. May God impress you with His healing power! May He bless you with the riches you desire. And may the spirit of salvation reside in this place you call a ministry!" —Heidi, Titusville, Florida



SPENCER FREEMAN

The Florida Flight I air ambulance flies missions to and from Florida Hospital Orlando.

FLORIDA FOCUS

VOL. 17, No. 5

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2001

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

Lewis Hendershot

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

Cindy Kurtzhals
Editor, Creative Director

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Martin Butler
Writer, Photographer

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Lee Bennett
Desktop Publishing

OFFICE SECRETARIES

Margaretta Cone
Gladyel Neigel

North American Division

Festival of the Laity

April 24-27, 2002

Orlando, Florida

Orange County

Convention Center

Our Portion of the Power



Equipped to serve ...

Equipped to lead ...

Equipped to finish the work!

INSIDE:
A special
invitation
for every
Adventist



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

North American Division

Dear Adventist Members in sunny Florida Conference:

The recent attacks and resulting war have changed our world forever. People are filled with fear and uncertainty about the future. We are experiencing a time of trouble such as never seen before.

The good news is we still have time to tell people about Jesus. In fact, now more than ever, we have opportunities to share our faith at work, at school, and in our home communities.

While many don't know whom they can trust, we trust God to take care of us. While many feel hopeless, we have hope in the coming of our Lord. While many aren't sure what to do, we know that all we can do is be ready.

Watching the evening news I ache to tell the world the source of our peace, our strength, our faith. Don't you? Don't you want to tell them what Jesus means to you?

Now is the time for Adventist members to speak up for Jesus across Florida Conference and the North American Division; to spread the Good News of salvation to all the world. Are you ready to serve? Are you ready to lead? Are you ready to help finish the work?

I know you'll need training, information, resources, and plenty of ideas. You may also wish to share some valuable ideas of your own. So this coming April, your Church is going to assemble a massive team of Adventist members who want to be part of a great new initiative to do community-based ministry across North America.

No matter who you are or what you do to earn a living, I invite you to join Alfred Johnson and me in Orlando, April 22-27. Together we'll pray to be empowered and prepare for action. We're calling the kick-off event a *Festival of the Laity* and we've invited the best Adventist preachers, workshop presenters, and resource providers to be in the same place at the same time for four days.

If you want to do your part to finish the work, meet me at the *Festival of the Laity*. Come fellowship with believers and be inspired by the testimonies; get the latest information and newest ministry resources; meet the experts in your area of ministry and learn the keys to their success. Come to Orlando so you can be equipped to serve, equipped to lead, equipped to finish the work!

Praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit,

Pastor Don Schneider
President

PS. This preview booklet contains preliminary information about the *Festival of the Laity*. A 16-page booklet previews all 100 workshops in 22 ministry areas. Don't delay, call AdventSource for your free booklet, and register today!



Alfred
Johnson,
Conference
Convenor



Keynote Speakers



Wednesday Opening Session

Don C. Schneider
President, North American Division



Thursday Morning

Abraham Jules
Pastor, City Tabernacle Seventh-day
Adventist Church, New York City



Thursday Evening

Mark Finley
Speaker/Director, It Is Written



Friday Morning

Adly Campos
Evangelist



Friday Evening

Ron Halvorsen, Sr.
Evangelist, Southern Union



Sabbath Morning

José Vicente Rojas
Director, Adventist Volunteer Ministries
Network, North American Division



Sabbath Divine Worship

Walter L. Pearson, Jr.
Speaker/Director, Breath of Life



Sabbath Evening

Jan Paulsen
President, General Conference

Super Seminars



Soup and Salvation

Mark and Teenie Finley,
It Is Written



Designing Ministry For Your Local Church

Ron Halvorsen, Sr., Evangelist,
Southern Union



Bridging the Gap Between Generations

José V. Rojas, Director, Adventist
Volunteer Ministries Network,
North American Division

Conversations With Master Soul Winners - 2 Sessions



C.D. Brooks, Ron Halvorsen, Sr.,
Walter Pearson, Henry Feyerabend,
E. E. Cleveland, Adly Campos,
Lonnie Melashenko

Workshop Categories

- Adult Ministries
- Adventist Community Services
- Children's Ministries
- Communication/Media Ministries
- Disabilities Ministries
- Education
- Evangelism
- Family Ministries
- Health Ministries
- Multilingual Ministries
- Prayer Ministries
- Publishing Ministries
- Religious Liberty
- Stewardship
- Volunteer Ministries
- Women's Ministries
- Worship Ministries
- Young Adult Ministries
- Youth Ministries

**Festival of the Laity
April 24-27, 2002 • Orlando, Florida**

Registration Information

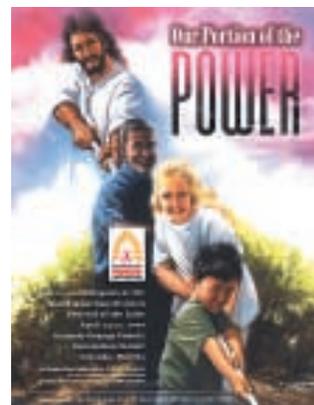
Registration Fees

\$99 per person (includes seminars, general sessions, access to exhibit hall, and one meal per day (Thur-Sat)
\$33 per person, daily walk-in fee (includes seminars, general sessions, access to exhibit hall, no meals)

Refunds (minus a \$20 processing fee) will be given upon written request through March 24, 2002

Lodging For information on specially discounted hotels, call toll-free 888-465-9815

Air Travel The nearest airport is Orlando International. For discounted air travel, contact:
New York City – Newarc Travel & Tours; Contact Jackie – 800-878-6392
California – Via Van Bloom Travel; Contact Holly – 800-651-2881
Oregon – Butler Travel; Contact Ellen – 503-879-5005
Florida – Around the Earth Travel, Inc.; Contact Doris – 800-883-9020



Four Ways to Register

- 1 Call** – Toll-free 866-329-2575
- 2 Web** – Register online at www.plusline.org/festival.htm
- 3 Fax** – Complete and fax the form below to 805-495-2644
- 4 Mail** – Complete and mail the form below to: Adventist PlusLine, P.O. Box 5005, Westlake Village, CA 91359-5005
Make certified checks (no personal checks) payable to: *Festival of the Laity*



For More Information

To receive a full-color 16-page booklet which tells all about the workshops and the presenters, contact AdventSource at 800-328-0525 and ask for your free Festival of the Laity booklet.

Registration Form

Yes! Pastor Schneider, I want to help finish the work. I'll meet you at the *Festival of the Laity*, April, 22-27, 2002, in Orlando, Florida. Please register me today!

Name (as it will appear on your event name tag) _____
(Please print all information)

Address _____
(city) (state/province) (zip/country code)

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Home Church _____ City _____ Conference _____

Method of payment: Money Order Certified Check Credit Card - type _____ Name on card _____

Account # _____ Expiration: _____ Signature _____

Billing Address (if different from above) _____
(city) (state) (zip)

NEW TALK RADIO PROGRAM GIVES DIVINE DIRECTION TO MEN



GARY BARTSCH

Pastor Minervino Labrador and Dr. Roma Schiefer.

Feeling of failure as husband/father, and “A Secret About Sex”—Sexuality given by God as opposed to twisted and perverted sexuality.

Divine Direction

Live Radio’s purpose is to provide solutions for everyday problems, said Labrador. It’s for people in crisis, people concerned about the future, and people living their everyday lives.

“Everyone needs divine direction,” Labrador said. “Especially today’s men. When men find divine direction, then marriages, families, society, and the Church are strengthened. That’s why Media Gospel’s *Divine Direction Live Radio* focuses on men’s issues.”

WTWD and WTNB

are owned by Salem Broadcasting, the largest U.S. radio broadcasting company in the religious marketplace, with 21 stations in nine of the top 10 markets and 52 stations in 21 of the top 25 markets, spanning from Seattle to San Diego and from Boston to Tampa.

Divine Direction Live Radio is Media Gospel’s first step in developing a TV program based on the de-

scription of Christ’s method of reaching people given in *Ministry of Healing*, said Labrador. First Jesus mingled with men as one who desired their good, met their needs, won their confidence, then bade them follow Him (p. 143).

For more information on *Divine Direction Live Radio*, visit DivineDirection.com or call (727) 320-0709.

—R. Lynn Sauls

Media Gospel, Inc. made its debut at 3:00 p.m., December 1, 2000, when Minervino Labrador, pastor of the Clearwater Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Dr. Roma Schiefer, a member of his church and president of Life and Health Psychology Associates, Inc., hosted the first of 13 weekly, one-hour *Divine Direction Live Radio* programs on Tampa Bay Word stations WTNB 570 AM and WTWD 910 AM.

Signals from these stations can reach 3.5

million people from Sarasota to Spring Hill and from Clearwater to Kissimmee.

Schiefer and Labrador introduced the topic, “Who Is the Stronger Sex?” and fielded questions and comments from listeners on the differences between men and women. Labrador had the last word when he turned to the Bible to give divine direction on the topic.

They followed a similar format Dec. 8 and 15 with the topics “Do Women Need Men?”—Role of men.

UPCOMING TOPICS

- Dec. 22 Blue Christmas—expectations, pressures, memories, nostalgia
- Dec. 29 Party ’til You Drop—letting go of guilt, shame, mistakes, and the past
- Jan. 5 He Shoots, He Scores—setting reasonable goals instead of making New Years’ resolutions that fail
- Jan. 12 Even the Best, Crash—depression, suicide, mistakes
- Jan. 19 Show Me the Money—debt
- Jan. 26 Words Kill—verbal abuse
- Feb. 2 Does Father Know Best?—connecting with your kids
- Feb. 9 How to Have a Better Wife—what women want and need from a man
- Feb. 16 The Cheaters
- Feb. 23 The Cheated



ROBERT GRANT

Pastors Keith Harding, left, and Conrad Duncan, right, with the Miami-Dade County Police officers honored by the Maranatha church.

Several police cars were seen in the parking lot of the Maranatha church in Miami, August 25. One

may have wondered why they were there that Sabbath morning.

This day was set aside for a dedication

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

and consecration service in honor of the Miami-Dade Police Department. The congregation of more than 750 worshiped with Sergeant Matthew Locke and his team of police officers. Pastors Keith Harding and Conrad Duncan and Neighborhood Crime Watch unit Chairperson Dorothy Smith hosted the program.

Members of neighboring communities were invited to the Sabbath service to show support for the police who have done a wonderful job in Miami-Dade County. They prevent and detect crime and patrol the area while the community works and sleeps.

Sergeant Locke was given an award for outstanding service within

the community. In addition, the officers were commended for their excellent commitment and dedication to improving the neighborhood. After the service, the guests of honor and the church members enjoyed eating together in the fellowship hall.

It was a special day as police officers and crime watch members visited our church to meet, greet, and worship with us.

—Raphael Harris

MAGABOOK AND SOULS STUDENTS TAKE JESUS TO FLORIDA CITIES



Miami Temple



Jacksonville Southpoint

PHOTOS: CINDY KURTZHALS



Tampa Carrollwood



This year's SOULS students.



Florida's 2001 summer MagaBook students.

A. LEE BENNETT, JR.

Three teams of students penetrated metro Jacksonville, Miami, and Tampa during 10 weeks this summer to share Jesus' love and His word. The 40 students knocked on 250,000 front doors, sold \$169,000 worth of MagaBooks, generated 500 Bible study interests, and each earned \$2,000-\$3,000 in educational scholarships. Student Bible workers and church members then visited interested customers.

"The biggest accomplishment was to see the change in student lives," says Charlie Kendall, recently appointed associate publishing director/youth publishing coordina-

tor. "Seeing the transformation that took place makes me more excited than thousands of dollars in sales," said Kendall after Joseph Parks' baptism at the Winter Springs church. Five students were baptized this summer as a result of the MagaBook ministry.

MagaBook student leaders are trained at SOULS, a leadership

school of personal evangelism in Groveland, Florida. SOULS is a Southern Union Conference affiliate and offers a post-secondary, two-year program for the development of leaders in personal evangelism. MagaBook and SOULS students come nationwide from academies, high schools, home schools and colleges.

"What a blessing these young people are to the Florida Conference," says Lewis Hendershot, president. "Many of our churches have indicated how well-trained and totally committed to the mission of the Church they are. We are extremely proud of the tremendous work that is being done through SOULS."

—Cindy Kurtzhals

EXPERIENCE OF DAVID COLLINS...

"My mom already has [a copy of] *The Great Controversy*," said the little boy at the door, "and she wants to see you."

David Collins, a second-year student at SOULS, was surprised. "This doesn't happen very often," he thought. "I wonder why she wants to see me."

"Oh, I'm so glad you're here," the woman said. "Last year, a student came by and sold me four books. During the course of the conversation, I was impressed with the Christian demeanor of the girl. When she asked me if I was interested in Bible studies, I said, 'No, that's fine. I stay pretty busy.'"

The woman was now getting excited as she recounted her story. "After the girl left, I felt like I really should have signed up for the Bible studies. I told myself that if one of those students ever came by my house again, I would sign up—and now here you are!"

Collins couldn't believe what he just heard. "As a matter of fact, ma'am, I will be the one coming back to study with you."

Today, Collins and the woman continues her studies.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE

A new Florida law becomes effective January 1, 2002, that enables low-income families to receive up to \$3,500 per year in scholarship funds for each K-12 child that transfers from a public school to an eligible private school.

Lawmakers considered the legislative bill with favor because it addressed several of Florida's educational concerns, including:

1. over-crowded classrooms,
2. the need to help low-income children achieve a greater level of excellence in their education, and
3. a way to lessen the financial burden on taxpayers to fund public schools. This will be accomplished, in part, when the annual expense per student decreases from \$5,500 to \$3,500 as a scholarship is granted to each student who transfers from a public school to a private school.



PHOTOS: © 2001 PHOTODISC, INC.

CORPORATIONS WILL FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

Funding for the new Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program will come from Florida corporations. The new law allows corporations to direct up to 75% of their state tax liability to a non-profit Scholarship Funding Organization. Florida Conference has selected FloridaChild to process its applications and award scholarships to eligible students.

Students may be eligible to receive a scholarship if they:

1. already qualify under the National School Lunch Act for free or reduced-price lunches in public school,

2. were counted as full-time-equivalent public school students in the previous state fiscal year,
3. received a scholarship from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization during the previous school year, and
4. meet the family income qualifications. See bottom right.

APPLY WITH CHURCH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Florida Conference pastors and school principals are looking for qualified Adventist children who currently attend public school. Parents of these chil-

dren can then be encouraged to take advantage of the new scholarship funds. Interested families are advised to contact the local church school principal for application forms.

"These scholarship funds will provide a blessing and a wonderful opportunity for children to enroll in a church school when, previously, their families couldn't afford to send them," says Eugene Brewer, Florida Conference superintendent of education.

—Martin Butler



MAXIMUM ANNUAL INCOME PERMITTED FOR QUALIFICATION

Family Size	Gross Income
2	\$21,479
3	27,066
4	32,653
5	38,240
6	43,827
7	49,414
8	55,001
For each additional family member, add \$5,587	

2002 ADVENTIST CALENDARS AVAILABLE FOR SHARING



2002 calendars are now available at any Florida Adventist Book Center branch for \$5.95 each. Cardboard mailing cartons are free.

The Adventist page-a-day, desktop calendars were developed by the General Conference Philanthropic Services as gifts for volunteers. Today, they continue to be thoughtful gifts and witnessing tools for any church member. The

pages carry the Seventh-day Adventist name and meaningful quotations by a variety of authors about virtuous topics.

A RECIPIENT SAYS...

Barbara Shepherd, co-owner of *The DeLand Beacon*, wrote to Ernest Steed, DeBary

church communication director: "Thank you for the wonderful desk calendar. I hope you noticed that ALL of our editorial page quotes are coming from that source. I like it so much. You are a really good person to bring that and all the news, too."

—Cindy Kurtzhals



MARION STARKEL

Reba Foster, Sarasota church choir director.

HAPPY FACES MAKING FRIENDS THROUGH MUSIC

church's own Reba Foster directing two of the musical selections, accompanied by our organist, Phyllis Lunsford.

Foster has been an organist and pianist for 30 years and other churches are becoming acquainted with us—thanks to her and our musicians. They are on the front lines of friendship evangelism.

She has participated in the planning of this annual spring choral festival for at least five years. ChoirFest is hosted each year by one of the largest area churches with 250 singers taking part. Church of the Palms

has provided a supper for the musicians and this fellowship has led to the formation of many friendships with our people. Choir members already anticipate next year's program, April 7, 2002, at Grace Baptist church.

On special occasions, musicians from other churches have joined with our Sarasota Chancel Choir. For most, this was their first visit to an Adventist church and they were pleasantly surprised at the beauty of our sanctuary, the service, and the friendliness of our members.

For the past three

years, five Sarasota-area Adventist church choirs have joined in presenting a Thanksgiving HymnFest. Each year, the event is widely publicized in newspapers and on radio, inviting area residents.

Annual participants include choirs from Bradenton, North Port, Palmetto, Sarasota, and Southeastern Conference's Mt. Sinai church. The most recent program, November 17, included a mass choir, instrumentalists, drama presentations, and congregational singing.

—Maryon Starkel,
Sarasota Church

My heart thrilled with joy as I heard the applause given to our Sarasota church choir. They had been introduced to the hundreds of people who filled the Church

of the Palms Presbyterian on March 11.

There were 13 participating churches in ChoirFest 2001. All choir members were seated together on the huge stage and another thrill was to see our

COURTESY: DEAD OR ALIVE?

Courtesy—is it the forgotten charm of yesteryear? Can six once-a-week lessons bring it back to life?

It did for the students at Ocala's Heritage Junior Academy. Retired teacher Audrey Conner developed the lesson plans and voluntarily taught a courtesy course to the lower and upper grades. Topics included:

1. how to greet and treat people, making true friends,
2. ways to honor parents and family,
3. how to develop respectful behavior and courtesy in the

house of God,

4. conversation tips for everyday and special occasions, and
5. good table manners.

Written outlines were sent home with the students so a parent could reinforce the principles being taught.

At the conclusion of the courtesy course, the students, their parents, and school teachers were invited to celebrate and implement the new skills learned with a dinner prepared by teacher Audrey Conner and Maxine Alfred, her sister.

A follow-up letter addressed to each parent sought evaluation

and suggestions for improvement for a similar type course in the future. One parent stated, "Our children can never have too many manners and I am sure Jesus likes to see children conducting themselves in a self-controlled and orderly manner." Another mother summed it well, "The young children learned things that they can use throughout their lives."

Conner intends to refine the courtesy lesson plans so the Ocala school and other church schools might use the materials. From her personal observa-



HERB PRITCHARD

Robbie Monroe practices courtesy by opening the car door for Judy Pritchard.

tions of social trends, Conner concludes "we need to do whatever we can in our homes, churches, and schools to teach our precious children the attributes

of Christian courtesy." Such courtesy is the sugar to sweeten each child for a happier life now and to come.

—Herb Pritchard,
Ocala Church

AFTER THE TERROR

Many of us have reached out in some way or another, to help families involved with the September 11 tragedy or to help those here at home who are having difficulty coping with these latter day events.

Roma Schiefer, Ph.D., and Kurt, her husband, members of the Clearwater church, came up with the idea of using her practice, Life & Health Psychology Associates, Inc., to help the local community. She engaged Minervino Labrador, pastor of the Clearwater church, to help in this outreach effort. A

meeting was held September 27, and called "After the Terror."

Several organizations joined in sponsoring the event where members of the Network of Christian Counselors came to give words of encouragement and support.

Calvin Dennie, a deputy with the Sheriff's Department, introduced the speakers which included Pastor Labrador and Dr. Mohammed Sultan, of the Islamic Society of Tampa Bay. Their heartfelt talks encompassed the subject, "In God We Trust."

Uplifting Christian and patriotic solos

brought tears to many eyes. The main topics presented by the counselors included, "Common Responses to Trauma," "How Can You Help?" and "How Can You Help Your Children?"

Guidance was given relating to the way in which the horrific events of September 11 should be explained to our small children and teenagers and how to relieve them of fear of the future. Twice during the meeting, attendees were divided into groups and individual concerns and responses were addressed.

—Joy Buchen,
Clearwater Church

LETTERS TO RESCUE WORKERS

Early one Sabbath afternoon following the September 11 attack, members of the Sunrise church

in Miramar were invited to return to the church. They wrote letters of appreciation to the rescue workers in

New York. The young people's response was tremendous.

—Faith Chambers,
Sunrise Church

HOSPITAL SYSTEM DONATES \$50,000

In response to the tragic events that took place on September 11 and the tremendous needs that exist, Adventist Health System (AHS) made a \$50,000 contribution to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to be used for relief efforts.

A portion of the contribution is coming from the budget for

our Christmas party with the balance coming from our operating funds, which are generated by each hospital, nursing home, and home health agency within AHS. The staff in this office (AHS corporate) asked that we cancel our normal Christmas party and contribute the money to ADRA. I must tell you that I consider it a

privilege to work with committed compassionate Christians.

While I support wholeheartedly the efforts of our government and armed forces to end terrorism, I am thankful that I work for an organization that exists to sustain and improve life and points people to the ultimate answer for the evils that plague this world.

—Thomas Werner,
president, Adventist
Health System,
Winter Park

Florida Pathfinder Events: <http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call (407) 644-5000 x127.

Additional Singles' Ministries Events not in this calendar. Request complete singles' ministries calendar from Diane Miller, (386) 789-3235, or djm4000@n-jcenter.com

DECEMBER, 2001

Singles' Ministries Fellowship Dinners.

Dec. 22. Markham Woods Jan. 19. Kress Memorial.

Jan. 12. Forest Lake. Jan. 26. Markham Woods.

Singles' Ministries Annual New Year's Retreat. Dec. 28-Jan. 1. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Cost varies depending on accommodations. Registration: (386) 454-1351. Details: <http://www.adventist-fl.com/familylife/newyear.html>

JANUARY, 2002

Evangelistic Series.

Jan. 4-Feb. 9. High Springs. Lester Pratt and Roy and Amy Pauley.

Jan. 4-Feb. 9. Boynton-Delray. Ric and Dawn Swaningson.

Jan. 4-Feb. 9. Vero Beach. Marc and Sarah Swearingen.

Jan. 5-26. South Orlando Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.

Jan. 5-Feb. 9. Leesburg. Bob and Mary Goransson.

Feb. 2-9. Deltona. Ralph Ringer.

Feb. 23-Mar. 16. All Nations in St. Petersburg. Dennis Ross.

Feb. 23-Mar. 21. Wimauma Spanish. José and Ophelia Fuentes.

Feb. 23-Mar. 23. Tampa Spanish. Rolando and Rebeca de los Ríos.

Feb. 23-Mar. 30. Brandon. Ric and Dawn Swaningson.

Feb. 23-Mar. 30. Clearwater. Marc and Sarah Swearingen.

Feb. 23-Mar. 30. New Port Richey. Lester Pratt and Roy and Amy Pauley.

Feb. 23-Mar. 30. Palmetto. Art and Margo Swaningson.

Feb. 23-Apr. 13. Carrollwood in Tampa. Bill and Sunshine Waters.

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

Jan. 5. Tallahassee.

Jan. 6. Perry, Lake City, Ocala, Silver Spring Shores, Inverness.

Jan. 12. Naples.

Jan. 13. Ft. Myers, Ft. Myers Shores, Arcadia, Walker Memorial in Avon Park, Lake View in Haines City, Winter Haven.

Jan. 26. North Miami.

Jan. 27. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderhill, Pompano Beach, Boynton-Delray.

Feb. 2. St. Petersburg.

Feb. 3. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville, East Pasco in Dade City, Lakeland.

Feb. 9. West Palm Beach.

Singles' Ministries Picnics. Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, Apr. 6. Lake Lotus Park, Altamonte Springs. Details/directions: (407) 862-1331.

Florida Conference Ministers' Meeting. Jan. 6-9. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: (407) 644-5000 x149.

Communication Director/Team Training Workshop. Jan. 18-20. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Details: (407) 644-5000 x120.

Youth Leadership Conventions. Spanish: Jan. 18-20. English: Jan. 25-27. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: (305) 225-0528.

Singles' Ministries Prayer Breakfasts. Jan. 27, Feb. 24. Ryan's Steakhouse, S.R. 436, Apopka. 9 a.m. Details: Stan Shave, (407) 774-2589.

FEBRUARY, 2002

Women's Ministries Retreats. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: "Let His Light So Shine." Details/registration: (407) 644-5000 x188.

Feb. 8-10; Feb. 15-17; and Mar. 1-3. English. Guest speaker: Ginger Church, Women's Outreach Center director, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Feb. 22-24. English. Guest speaker: JoAnn Davidson, Ph.D., associate professor of systematic theology, Andrews University Theological Seminary, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Mar. 8-10. Spanish. Guest speaker: Marti Jones, coordinator of spiritual nurture for pastoral care, Florida Hospital, Orlando.

—A. Lee Bennett, Jr.

CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2001

VOTED the following individuals to fill responsibilities of John Appel who transferred to the Chesapeake Conference:

- Brendan White, DeBary church and Plymouth-Sorrento company pastor, to serve on the Executive Committee to

represent the West Central region.

- Robert Boggess, Miami Temple pastor, to serve on the Personnel Committee.
- Del Blake, Ft. Myers church member, to represent Florida on the North American Division Executive Committee.
- Haskell Williams,

Apopka Highland pastor, to serve on the K-12 Board.

VOTED Travis Crawford, Jacksonville Junior Academy principal, to serve on the K-12 Board as the junior academy representative. He replaces Roland McKenzie, Greater Miami Academy principal, who

continues on the K-12 Board as the Greater Miami Academy representative.

INVITED Charles Kendall to serve as associate publishing director. He will coordinate the youth publishing and MagaBook programs.

ORGANIZED these mission groups into

company status:

- Temple Adventiste de West Palm Beach, sponsored by the Eden church.
- Dunnellon, sponsored by the Ocala church.
- Ocoee Spanish, sponsored by the Orlando Spanish church.

—Evan Valencia

PERSONAL EVANGELIST ANTICIPATES 100 BAPTISMS



ANTONIO PEBILLA

Herma Serpa, left, with new members baptized July 28, 2001, at the Jacksonville Spanish church. They pause before enjoying a special Bible cake that was made to celebrate their baptisms.

Herma Serpa, Florida Conference personal evangelist, anticipates leading more than 100 people to baptism in 2001. This success follows her previous best year in 2000 when she was re-

sponsible for nearly 100 baptisms.

Through her ministry, 90 souls have already been baptized this year at the Hialeah Spanish, Miami Central, Jacksonville Spanish, and Orlando Spanish churches. This

total was reached prior to working with the Westchester Spanish church in November and December.

Serpa's ministry takes her into churches for one to two months where she conducts personal and small group Bible studies. She often concludes her stay in a district by holding a *Revelation Seminar*.

Serpa began working in evangelism for Florida Conference in 1990. She served as an evangelist assistant prior to January 1, 1998, when she was assigned to personal evangelism.

"Herma has a vision for souls," says Ralph

Ringer, Florida Conference evangelism coordinator. "God has definitely given her a gift of getting decisions on a personal basis. When we put her in a

church, she has the ability to pinpoint people who will respond to the Gospel."

—Ralph Ringer,
Martin Butler



ALEXANDER KAISIS

Pastor German Moreno, second row, right, baptized 14 additional candidates, August 18, in Jacksonville. Assisting with the baptismal service were Miriam Moreno, the pastor's wife, front right; deaconess Saturnina Soto, front left; and Herma Serpa, front row, second from left.



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