

Constant Comment @ FLCOG

A Weekly Florida Church of God Newsletter

December 10, 2007

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Around the State.....

Regional and Global Missions Speakers Available

Regional and Global Missions Team guest speakers are available to speak at local churches on **January 20th and 27th, 2008**. The available speakers are Bob Edwards, Sharon Skaggs, Sherman Critser, and David Miller. To schedule a speaker, please contact

Fay at fay@flcog.org or (407) 737-7633.

Missions Round Table Discussion at Resource Center

Florida Church of God Ministries Resource Center will be sponsoring a round table for missions pastors and pastors with an interest in missions from across the state. The round table will be held on **Thursday, January 24th, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Florida Church of God Ministries Resource Center. This discussion is for all pastors who would like to discuss missions with the Regional Coordinators/Global Missions team.

Send us your news! We want to share the joy with others...send your article and pictures (jpg format please) to flcogoffice@mac.com. Articles may be subject to editing.

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Ministry Quicklinks

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In Memory of Pastor Gerald Marvel

Pastor Gerald Marvel, who was well known by many in our state, passed away at 6:30 am Friday morning. His wife Rena wanted everyone to know that after all the struggle and pain he went through the last few years, he died very peacefully and that was an answer to much prayer.

The memorial service will be Friday, Dec 14th at 11:00 am. That is a very special day. It would have been his 72nd birthday.

India and Florida Partnership Continues to Grow

The vision to encourage and enable pastors and leaders in India continues with a team going to India from January 2-23, 2008. It is led by Pastors Richard Fields and Denny Huebner. The team will consist of Mid America Christian University students and Florida church leaders. We will be participating in the "All India Youth Conference" in Kolkata from January 4-7 that will include youth from Meghalaya & Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, South India and North India. The conference will be an encouragement to participants and allows the team to spend time with national leaders. Afterwards, the team will be off to visit pastors and workers around Siliguri and Sikkim, as well as national leaders in these areas.

This partnership has built much needed discipleship centers, where indigenous pastors of India have answered the call of God on their lives to reach their people for Christ and received ministry training. They hope this trip will provide motorcycles for at least three evangelists who are in great need of better transportation, as well as support many of our evangelists that are graduates of our discipleship centers.

Florida congregations have supported this work for many years. Please pray for this ministry trip and the work of the church in India. If you would like to give additional support to these projects before the team travels, contact Pastors Fields or Huebner.

Senator John McCain Reflects On A Memorable Christmas

Senator John McCain served as a Navy pilot during the Vietnam War. In October of 1967, his plane was shot down by North Vietnamese forces, and McCain was captured. McCain spent 5 1/2 years as a POW at Hua Lo prison, where he was struck almost daily by a sadistic guard and sometimes subjected to torture. Yet, as he writes in his latest book, "Character Is Destiny," there were moments of heroism and humanity that he recalls fondly, among them an encounter with a compassionate prison guard one Christmas morning.

He writes, "There was one other occasion during my imprisonment that moved me greatly as evidence of God's transcending love. During the time I was held in solitary, I was caught, not for the first time, communicating with my dear friend in the cell next to mine. For my transgression, I was kept overnight in a punishment cell tied very tightly in ropes...

On this particular night as I sat on the stool cursing my bad luck, and straining against the painfully tightened ropes, the door suddenly opened and a young gun guard I had occasionally seen wandering around the camp entered the room. He motioned to me to remain silent by placing his finger to his lips, and then, without smiling or even looking me in the eyes, proceeded to loosen the ropes that bound me. His kind action completed, he left without uttering a word to me. As dawn approached, he returned to tighten the ropes before he finished his watch and another guard might have discovered what he had done.

In the months that followed, I occasionally saw my Good Samaritan when I was moved from one part of the prison to another. He never allowed himself a glance in my direction, much less spoke to me, until one Christmas morning, when I was briefly allowed out of my cell to stand alone in the outdoors and look up at the clear, blue sky. As I was looking at the heavens, I became aware of him as he walked near me and then, for a moment, stood very close to me. He did not speak or smile or look at me. He just stared at the ground in front of us, and then, very casually, he used his foot to draw a cross in the dirt. We both stood looking at his work for a minute until he rubbed it out and walked away.

For just that moment I forgot all my hatred for my enemies, and all the hatred most of them felt for me. I forgot about the Jerk, and the interrogators who persecuted my friends and me. I forgot about the war, and the terrible things that war does to you. I was just one Christian venerating the cross with a fellow Christian on Christmas morning.

I saw him again occasionally. But he never looked at me or attempted to speak to me. We never worshiped together again. But I have never forgotten him or the kindness he showed me as a testament to the faith we shared. That experience helped to form my lasting appreciation for my own religious faith, and it took the faith of an enemy to reveal it to me, the faith that unites and never divides, the faith that bridges unbridgeable divisions in humanity, the faith that we are all, sinners and saints alike, children of God. I became a better man, a stronger man, a more faithful man, who, for at least a moment, could love his enemies."

Intercessory Prayer Time

A group of us gather weekly on Thursdays @ the FLCOG Ministries Resource Center for a time of prayer for our pastors and churches. If you are interested in joining us for this time, we will begin @ 9AM and go until 10AM. If you have specific prayer requests for your church or pastor, please email those to prayer@flcog.org.

Join us this week wherever you are as we pray for the following "churches of the week":



Genesis Christian Center in Coconut Creek
Coral Springs Community Church
First Church in Crystal River

Calendar of Events

Check out the FLCOG website at www.flcog.org for upcoming events....

Have a wonderful God-filled week!

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