

Constant Comment @ FLCOG

A Weekly Florida Church of God Newsletter

April 7, 2008

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Around the State.....

Cameron Ronaldo Bell was born to Ron and Carlotta Bell on March 26, 2008. He was 8.5 pounds and 22.5 inches. Please pray for this young boy's health and development. The doctors have diagnosed him with Down Syndrome. He is a beautiful baby and a blessing to the Bell family.

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

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FLCOG WEBSITE QUICKLINKS

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Ministry Quicklinks

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Mark Your Calendars Now FYLI 2008 is May 31, 2008!

FYLI (Florida Youth Leadership Institute) was canceled in February due to various issues. However, for those in the process there is a one-day event planned at Warner Southern College on May 31, 2008.

The event is for those students who are in Levels 2 and 3. The cost is only \$20.00 per person (students and leaders) and includes the evening meal. Registration begins at 12:00 noon with closing worship at 6:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Michael Sanders at Warner Southern College at 1-800-949-7248 or sandersm@warner.edu.

Pastor Walter Gatton to Retire!

After 63 years in ministry and 21 years as Minister of Pastoral Care, Pastor Walter will be retiring effective June 30, 2008.

There will be a service of love and appreciation for Walter and Linda Gatton on Sunday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m. During the ceremony the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus of Pastoral Care will be given to our faithful friend and servant.

You are invited to send a letter to the church office that can be included in the "Book of Letters."

Send letters to:
Judy Howell
White Chapel Church of God
1730 S. Ridgewood Ave.
South Daytona, FL 32119

The Ultimate IYC Road Trip

Destination: 2008 International Youth Convention of the Church of God - San Antonio, TX

When: July 12-20, 2008

Who: Florida Church of God Youth (8th grade graduates - graduating high school seniors)

Attention: Senior Pastors, Youth Pastors and Youth Workers

The Student Ministry Leadership Team of Florida Church of God Ministries is offering an opportunity to Florida youth and small youth groups to pull together for a trip to the 2008 International Youth Convention of the Church of God in San Antonio, Texas, July 14-17, 2008. We need to know how many youth and adult leaders would like to go on this trip to determine exact costs, itinerary and payment schedule. If you or your group are interested in going with a group from Florida on "The Ultimate IYC Road Trip" please contact Bill Ferguson, State Youth Pastor and Coach, by email - billf@flcog.org, no later than April 10. Our hope is to keep the cost under \$1,000.00 per person, including food, lodging, registration, transportation, miscellaneous cost for side activities, etc.

To learn more about IYC visit www.iyc2008.org. IYC is designed for youth who have graduated from the eighth grade up through those graduating from high school.

Marriage Retreat Scholarships Available

Quite often, couples in ministry become so involved in giving to others that their personal lives and marriages are neglected. Galatians 6:6 retreats, sponsored by Intimate Life Ministries ([Galatians 6:6 Retreats](#)) and Church of God Ministries, are designed to give back to clergy couples and provide them with a quality marriage enrichment experience. These excellent retreats are held at a very nice hotel and are intended to deepen the relationship between pastor and spouse. They also include great meals. This is a superb opportunity for a quality two day get away at no cost!

Florida Church of God Ministries has a limited number of scholarships available for the Galatians 6:6 retreat to be held May 2 & 3 in Orlando. The scholarship includes complimentary hotel room (May 2), great meals at a restaurant of your choice, and registration. If you and your spouse have not attended a Galatians 6:6 clergy couple retreat yet, then contact the Ministry Resource Center (barbara@flcog.org or 407-737-7633).

Intercessory Prayer Time

A group of us gather weekly on Tuesdays @ 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":

First Haitian Church of the Living God - Miami
Greater Miami Iglesia de Dios - Miami
Kendall Church- Miami

Florida Ministry Institute

Florida Church of God Ministries is excited to offer the new expanded Florida Ministry Institute. This has been a dream of ours for several years, and we are excited to see it become a reality. Our course selection has been expanded from 4 available sessions to 15 ministry related studies. They will be offered on a rotating schedule three more times per year (January, May, and September). Our new line-up of FMI courses is intended to provide more training opportunities for our credentials candidates, as well as our current ministers and laypersons. All courses are open to everyone so please share this information with your church! The fee is \$35.00 per 3 hours.

The Florida Ministerial Institute is sponsored by the Florida Credentials Committee to assist pastors, laity, and credential candidates in their quest to become better and more effective Christian leaders in the life of the local congregation. The FMI is

available to anyone who wishes to participate in these learning opportunities afforded the Church of God in Florida. Mark the dates, the courses, and submit your registration for 2008 and come journey with other Florida church leaders as they commit themselves to a growing and learning ministry, striving to advance the mission of Jesus Christ.

The following courses are available:
101 Theology
102 Church of God Doctrine & History
103 Spiritual Formation
104 Leadership
105 Pastoral Health
106 Congregational Health
201 Old Testament Survey
202 New Testament Survey
203 Pastoral Care
204 Worship
205 Preaching
206 Children's Ministry
207 Student's Ministry

Florida Church of God Ministries maintains a Ministry Resource Center in Orlando for the purpose of encouraging the use of resources and training those who will change the spiritual landscape of Florida. This happens as resources are implemented for the purpose of providing healthy Christian leaders and congregations in Florida. FMI is one of the resources designed for the purpose of assisting leaders in academic training and studies to enhance the ministry of evangelism and building up the Body of Christ. It is our desire to provide classes that will assist in our mission and maintain a registration fee that makes it financially reasonable for everyone to attend.

Women's Retreat "God's Simple Path"

2008 State Retreat
"God's Simple Path"
Sponsored by Women of the Church of God of Florida

On March 7-9, 2008, a group of eight-five (85) women met together at the Florida FFA Leadership Training Center in Haines City, Florida. These women represented fourteen Churches of God around the State. We worshiped together under the leadership of Brenda Coody and the ladies from Coral Springs Community Church.

Our speaker was Arnetta McNeese-Bailey - Executive Director of Women of the Church of God. Using our theme scripture Psalm 25:4-5, she encouraged and challenged each of us on our path with the Lord to really look, listen and learn from Him and to remember the sincerity of our call to be all that the Lord wants us to be so we will leave a legacy of faith along our path. She also reminded us that we can be secure in our calling because no one can close a door that God has opened.

We shared in workshops and small groups led by Cleartis Rochester, Che-Che Mobley, Dana Shick, Deborah Hepler and Audrey Gladman. We renewed and built new relationships with all of our sisters in the Lord. We were reminded that we were called by God to be together in that particular place and time to hear what the Lord had for each of us on our journey along His path.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the election of our new State President, Angie Rigdon, from Ft. Lauderdale. We are so blessed to have this young woman accept the call of God to lead the women in Florida.

The entire weekend was a blessed time of fun, fellowship, and worship along with a little glimpse of eternity when we will all sit together at the feet of Jesus.

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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