

SPRING | 2020

# FLORIDA FOCUS

A quarterly journal of Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

## LIVE TO SERVE

Relief in the Wake of Dorian **4**

Nothing Happens by Chance **11**

Living a Life of Service:  
A Tribute to Pastor Barbara McCoy **12**





# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Live to Serve

**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).**

American evangelist Dwight L. Moody once told the story of a man crossing the Atlantic by ship who was terribly seasick. One night, while he was confined to his cabin, he heard the cry, "Man overboard!" He felt there was nothing he could do to help, as he could barely stand, but thought to himself, "I can at least put my lantern in the porthole." He struggled to his feet and hung his light so it would shine out into the darkness.

The next day, he learned the man had been rescued. "I was going down in the dark night for the last time when someone put a light in a porthole," the man had said. "As it shone on my hand, a sailor in a lifeboat grabbed it and pulled me in."

Though we all experience times of weakness, we are called to stand up and be lights to those in darkness. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, He has given us the strength to fulfill His mission. His love and grace shines through us, illuminating the dark world that surrounds us. There are so many people around us who are sinking in despair. God has chosen us to reach out and light up their lives!

Our reality is filled with challenges, but the more challenges we face, the more opportunities we have to serve. If you look around, you might see where the Lord is leading you to give to those in need.

I pray this edition of *Florida Focus* inspires you to be the light by living to serve. Here you will read stories and testimonies of the many ways to help others: working with youth, disaster response, mission trips, and making service a lifetime legacy.

Today, let our prayer be: Lord, help me to do something extraordinary for you this week. Guide me to places where I can be a light for others.

May God bless you always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Machado". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allan Machado, Ph.D.  
Florida Conference President

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# RELIEF IN THE WAKE OF DORIAN



Florida Conference Disaster Response Team, along with hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors, jumped to the aid of fellowmen on the Bahama Islands immediately following Hurricane Dorian, similar to several previous occasions. Members of Florida Conference administration: Tim Goff, executive secretary, and Elisa Rahming, CFO, led a small delegation to represent the Conference in the Bahamas and make special presentations to church leaders as well as individual families affected by the hurricane. They brought back photos of their encounters and letters of appreciation from people that were helped.

While the hurricane was still active, cries for help came vigorously from members as well as brethren and leaders of Adventist work in the Bahamas. Since many members of Florida Conference, including the treasurer, are originally from the Bahamas, the cries could not be ignored.

## SPECIFIC STEPS:

1. Once the response team was activated, we met daily, weekly, and every two months to plan the details of the response efforts.
2. Teamed up with the Public Relations Department of the Florida Conference to ensure correspondence was flowing out to the constituency.
3. Sought and found affordable shipping agencies willing to arrange shipment of donated goods directly to Adventist (and non-Adventist) leaders located in the Bahamas.
4. Partnered with Miami Temple Church to collect, assort, pack, label, palletize, and ship five 40-foot containers of goods to the Bahamas. Vyomie Greene, who is from the Bahamas, is the principal coordinator of the shipping operation, and she is still doing an enviable job for suffering compatriots.

5. Activated 11 drop-off centers around the Conference to which churches and public agencies in proximity could take donations. These donations would then be assorted, packed, labeled, and palletized at various locations for pick up.

6. Once drop off center coordinators informed the office of goods ready for pick up, members of the disaster team would truck the supplies to Miami Temple Church, where empty shipping containers were available to be filled.

## CONCLUSION

After three and a half months of operation, we called off the organized response efforts of Florida Conference. This was mainly due to the exhaustion of both goods and volunteers.

At the end of the day, Florida Conference administration and the membership at large, contributed over \$115,000 to the response efforts in the Bahamas. There were also five 40-foot containers of valuable and costly donated goods, valued in the tens of thousands, shipped along with the monetary donations given for victims in the Bahamas.

## SPECIAL THANKS

There were so many that went beyond the call of duty to make this disaster response effort to the Bahamas successful. So, on behalf of the entire administration of the Florida Conference and the leaders and affected members of the families in the Bahamas, "Thank you pastors, members, and community donors for all you generously did and gave to help Dorian victims in 2019-2020. May God reward everyone for the kindness extended to help fellowmen in times of need." As Jesus declared in Matthew 25:40, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

As disasters are likely to happen again, let us be willing to help victims who need aid, as they represent Jesus.



# Serving as a Way of Life

By Melissa Simmons

When you do something repeatedly it becomes a habit; some habits become so ingrained that it becomes a way of life. This is the case for Scott and Gail Shelton of the Apopka SDA Church in Apopka, Florida.

Once a year beginning in June 2007 and twice a year since 2013, Scott and Gail, and sometimes a team of up to 16 volunteers, travel to a small town called Villa Real, nestled on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. Scott spends his time helping the locals with home improvement projects and assistance with food and clothing. While Gail spends her time teaching local ladies how to sew and crochet, enabling them with a craft that they can in turn use to make an income.

Over the years, five homes have either been rebuilt or improved upon. Many of the families live in poverty with homes that have dirt floors and outhouses with no indoor plumbing. These families live in a way that many of us can't fathom. Scott and Gail and their team of volunteers are often an answer to prayer – giving them a glimmer of hope that they do matter.

During their time in Costa Rica, evenings are spent teaching 40+ young children about how much God loves



them during Vacation Bible School. The children enjoy crafts, activities, reading, and singing – for many it is the first experience of God's love in a tangible way.

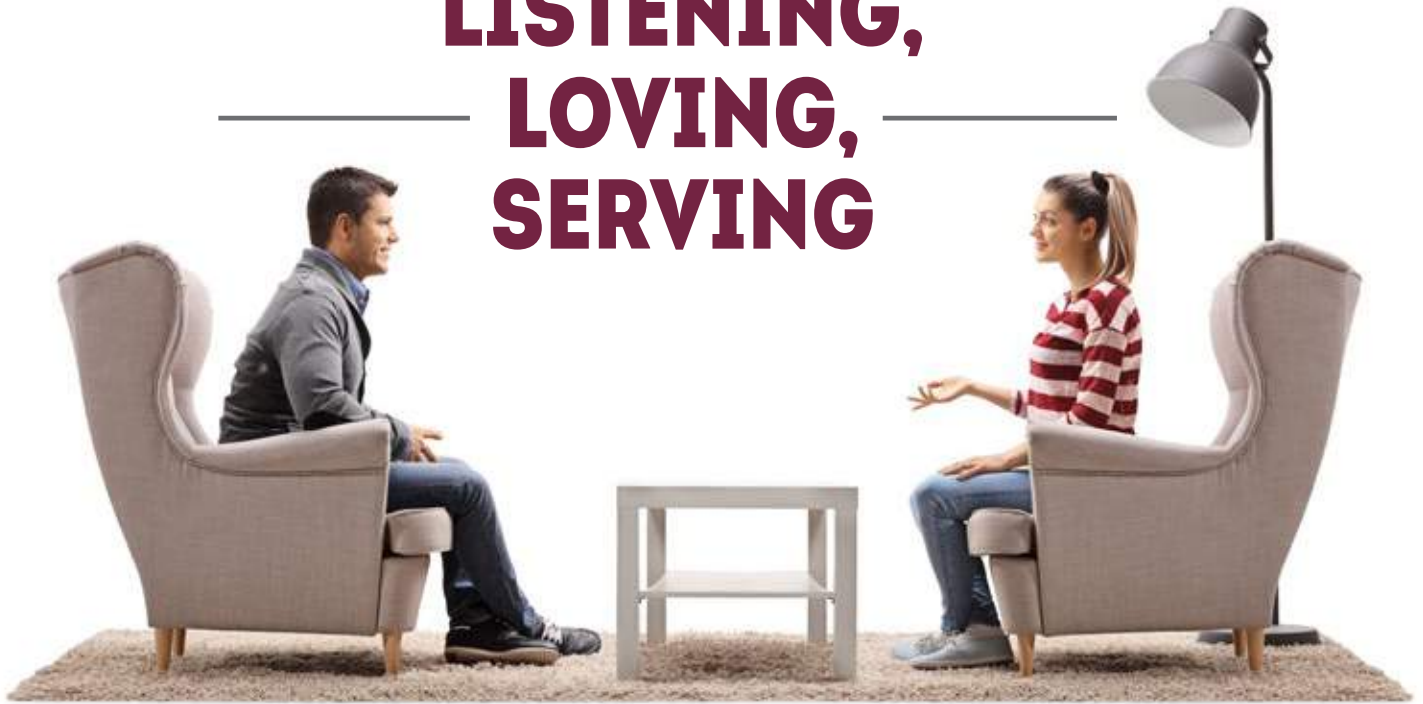
The work the Shelton's have begun does not stop when they return home. During one of their trips a small church was built and one of the locals became employed as the Bible worker. Through him the word of God continues to spread. He has studied with over 150 people in the community, spreading the gospel. This would not have taken place without the seed being planted through the work of Scott and Gail.

God impressed on the Shelton's many years ago His need for them to go and serve, and as a result many have been blessed and rely on this assistance every year. It is no small task to coordinate and plan a mission trip abroad, but with God's clear direction nothing is impossible.

If you would be interested in joining the Shelton's on their yearly mission trips or for more information please, visit [www.apopkasdachurch.com/ministries/missions](http://www.apopkasdachurch.com/ministries/missions).



# LISTENING, LOVING, SERVING



By: Alexander E. Schlusser

The relational skills which are used in coaching exemplify the servant's heart. The most important is that of listening. When we look at the most excellent servant of all, our Lord Jesus, we see the fullness of what it is to serve others. Jesus listened, he loved, and out of his love came his heart to service. Before Jesus acted, he listened. He opened his heart and was fully present as the people he ministered to spoke of their hurts and pain. It was then that his love was demonstrated through acts of kindness and service.

John tells us, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions in truth." (1 John 3:18) We are too quick to speak, when so often people just need to be heard. We create programs which we believe will be of benefit to the community around us, however, have we really listened to them? Because when we listen, and when we do it out of love, people will open up and express their needs.

To serve, we must first listen to what people need. This happens when we remove our personal agendas, and we are there for them. Second, regardless of their situation, we extend the love of Christ. Finally, we use the gifts the Lord has given us to serve, as each of God's children has received unique ways in which they can help the lost and hurting.

***Listen, Love, Serve.***

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)*

## TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE LISTENING

- MAINTAIN EYE CONTACT
- BE AWARE OF YOUR PERSONAL BIAS BY PUTTING AWAY NEGATIVE FEELINGS, GRUDGES AND HURTS, AS THESE WILL INFLUENCE WHAT YOU HEAR.
- LISTEN FOR THE PERSON'S REAL STORY
- LISTEN FAR MORE THAN YOU SPEAK
- USE PARAPHRASING TO CLARIFY YOUR UNDERSTANDING
- BE PATIENT, AND DON'T INTERRUPT

# ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE JOURNEY

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with Dr. Duany

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## WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO HAVE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS?

We are hardwired for relationships. In fact, we were created to relate to God and to others. Genesis 1:26, 27 presents a God that lives in relationship with the Godhead. The heart of the universe revolves around relationships: God the Son, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit.

Human beings are created in the image of God, and since God is a relational God, they are created likewise. Before the Fall, this original relationship was perfect. However, since the Fall we have been carrying the pain and dysfunction of our broken relationships. The question remains, "if we are hardwired for relationships, why is it so difficult to develop healthy ones?"

One way that psychologists explain the process of relationship formation is through the lens of attachment theory. The theory states that attachment is the deep emotional bond that connects people together. This theory describes how our early relationships with primary caregivers, most commonly a parent, creates our expectations for how love should be. This bond is formed in close relationships with infants to adults, and as adults it is the way they relate to significant others.

God, in His wisdom, created an attachment behavioral system in the human brain. This attachment system is a wonderful blend of emotions, behaviors, and beliefs. All are programmed in the brain to help you stay connected with the ones you love. This attachment system is naturally and purposely designed by God to keep spouses, parents, and children emotionally and physically connected. The attachment system is the relationship's thermostat. The goal of the attachment system is to maintain the relationship in a comfortable environment of closeness, intimacy, emotional availability, and accessibility to each other.

For example, in marriage this system is naturally and purposefully designed to keep the couple emotionally and physically connected. However, since the partners in marriage are not perfect and are full of mistakes and vulnerabilities, sometimes cycles of conflict hinder one partner from being able to meet the attachment needs of the other. When the attachment is threatened, the attachment behavior system is triggered in an attempt to get the attention of the spouse. This emotional reaction is often a desperate cry from one spouse to the other so that they will reach out and restore his or her heart to its rightful place of safety.

It is clear that God designed us hardwired for connections, so why does it appear to be so difficult? As we have seen so far, when the attachment relationship of a couple is threatened by negative behavior, the spouse might normally respond with a predictable reaction. The response is typically charged with anger because he or she is responding to the loss of the attachment figure. Following the display of anger, the next step in separation distress is clinging and seeking, which can turn into depression and despair. Finally, if restoration does not occur, the relationship is damaged, and detachment will follow.

What can you do to bring healing to your relationship? **Learn about your adult attachment style.** It will help you to be mindful of the way you are relating to yourself and to your spouse. For example, if you have an insecure attachment style, your insecurities will flourish every time you feel vulnerable in your relationship.

**Identify your attachment needs.** This experience could be painful because it requires opening a dark room in your mind that many don't care to visit. However, unless you practice self-awareness, you will not know your attachment needs, and it will be difficult for your spouse to provide for your emotional needs. Often seeking professional help can be incredibly helpful. **Express your attachment needs in ways that move your spouse to respond and connect to you.** Be clear and specific about your emotional needs. When your spouse responds sensitively, it will touch you emotionally and calm you on a physical level.

**Prioritize emotional safety in your marriage.** This means connecting to your partner and showing that their emotions, especially attachment needs and fears, have an impact on your relationship. It is imperative to provide a safe haven to your spouse when he or she calls for connection. **Be brave enough to forgive your spouse.** Forgiveness is essential for the safety of your relationship, and only happens when partners can make sense of their own hurt and how their significant other connects and also feels that hurt.

As with any relationship, love needs constant attention. For this reason, learn how to love. Knowing your attachment needs and responding to those of your spouse can make your marriage last for Eternity.



## COUNSELING SESSIONS AT CAMP MEETING 2020

The Children's, Family and Singles' Ministries of the Florida Conference will be offering counseling service to members seeking help coping with stress and mental health concerns during our Camp Meeting 2020. If you want to schedule an appointment with a Mental Health Professional, please call 407-618-0284 or visit [www.floridaconference.com/counseling](http://www.floridaconference.com/counseling)



# LITTLE READERS



## Random Acts of Kindness

Do you have an older neighbor who isn't feeling well?  
Maybe there's a new kid in your class at school or maybe  
there's someone at church that could use a friend?  
Can you think of ways to cheer them up?

### Here are a few ideas:

- Make a card
- A bouquet of flowers
- A hug
- A bag of cookies
- Playing a game together
- Pick up trash
- Hold a door
- Give a smile

**1 John 3:18**

"Little Children, let us not love  
with word or with tongue, but  
in deed and truth."

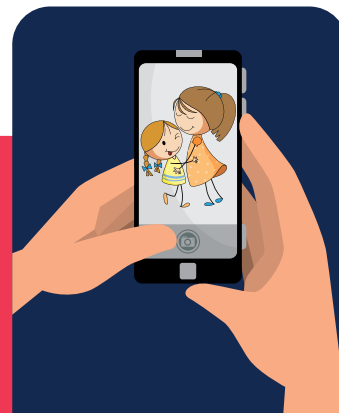


# Sprinkle Kindness Everywhere

You've been challenged to ask your Mom or Dad to cut out or make a copy of the following ticket and include with your Random Act of Kindness.

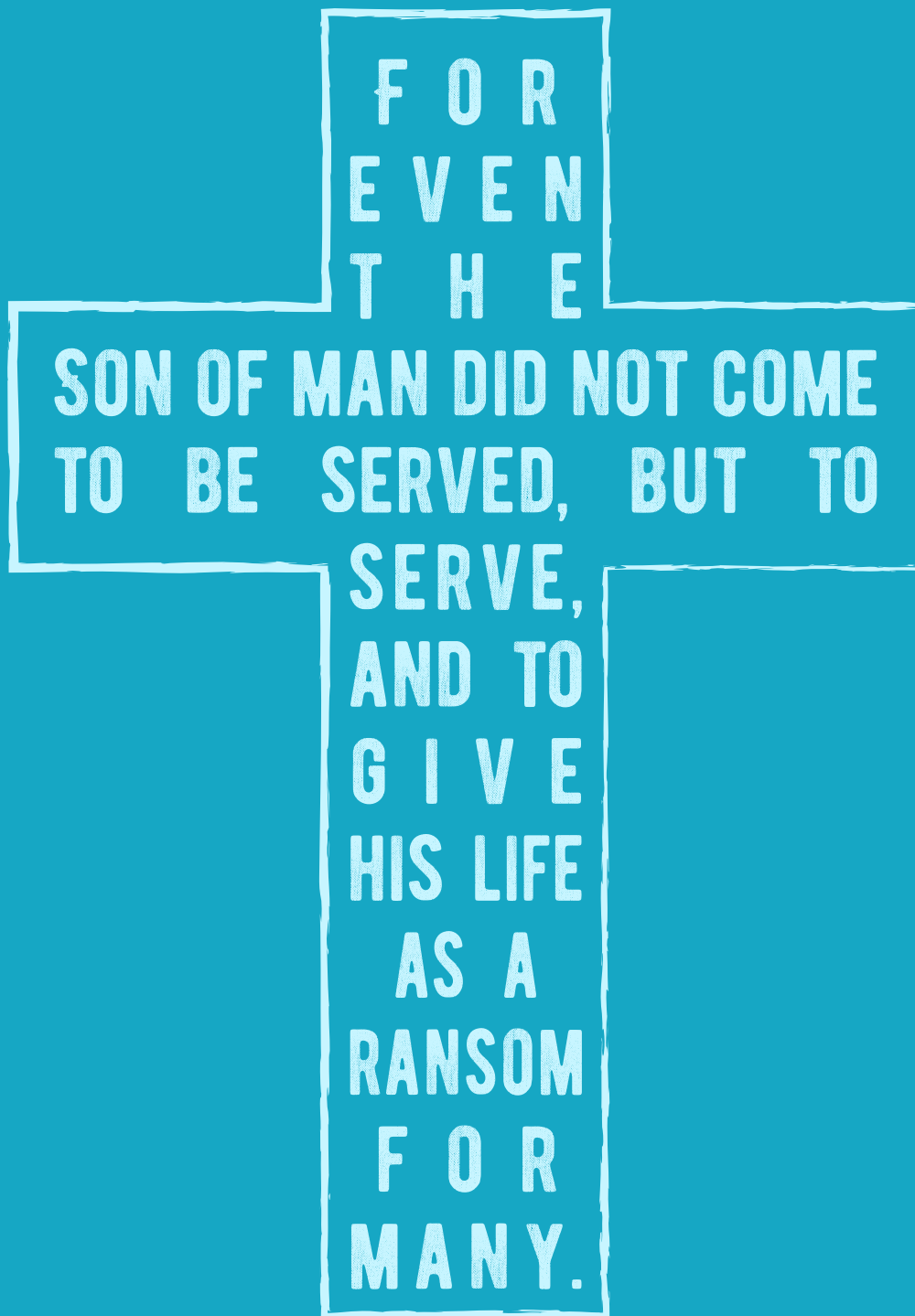


Email a picture of your child doing a  
**“Random Act of Kindness”**  
 to [floridafocus@floridaconference.com](mailto:floridafocus@floridaconference.com) for the opportunity to be featured in the next edition of Florida Focus.



## APRIL 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 April Fools' Day Take Donuts to the Police Station.	2 Let a friend or sibling go first.	3 Give a flower to a complete stranger.	4 Write a thank you note for your Pastor,
5 Help carry groceries for someone in need.	6 Take a small gift to your teacher.	7 Walk a neighbors dog.	8 Bake cookies for the Fire station.	9 Leave your Mail carrier a note.	10 Give your Mom a hug.	11 Hold the door for someone at church.
12 Easter Invite a new friend to play,	13 Buy a balloon for a younger child.	14 Donate toys to a favorite charity.	15 Tape \$1 to a Red box near you.	16 Ask your Dad how you can help him.	17 Take out the trash.	18 Invite a family over for Lunch.
19 Smile at every person you see today!	20 Help cook dinner.	21 Read to your younger brother or sister.	22 Earth Day Make a treat to deliver to your neighbor.	23 Set the table.	24 Clean your room without being asked.	25 Ask a new friend to sit with you at church.
26 Volunteer at a food bank,	27 Write a letter to a friend.	28 Be patient and kind to your family.	29 Play with someone who needs a friend.	30 Take a break from electronics and think of how you can sprinkle kindness next month!		



MARK 10:45

# NOTHING HAPPENS BY CHANCE

By Juan M. Rodriguez



"Aren't you that Christian Vlogger?" asked a surprised and excited Maya, a waitress at a restaurant in High Springs, FL. Here was Justin Khoe in person. Justin Khoe who she had watched for two years on his YouTube Channel called *"That Christian Vlogger"* with 100,000 views per month! Unbelievable!

Justin Khoe and his wife had just arrived at the airport and been met by Freddy Rodriguez, Florida Conference Associate Youth Director. On their way to Camp Kulaqua, they had stopped to eat at the restaurant where Maya was employed. Justin had accepted an invitation one year before to join the lineup of speakers for a Florida Conference high school student Bible retreat at Camp Kulaqua.

After the initial shock and surprise, a deep conversation ensued as the 16-year-old young lady shared questions concerning church and difficulties she was having with her Southern Baptist home church. At the end of the conversation, she was invited to attend the retreat.

That weekend, Maya, attended the retreat, worshiped, and hung around other teenagers. She gave her amazing testimony of meeting Justin after she had faithfully followed him for two years. During her testimony, she shared the following:

*For the last two weeks I felt depressed, and Friday morning I was having thoughts of committing suicide. I asked God that morning to give me a sign that He still cared about me, and Justin Khoe, the one person that was keeping me connected to Jesus through his YouTube channel, walked through the doors of where I work in this small town of High Springs. Not only did I meet Justin, but I met his wife, I connected with new friends, and now I'm here to share that God really does care about our lives and loves us very much. My depression has lifted, and I praise God for my renewed faith in Him.*

God still works. He did so much through the retreat. If nothing else good had happened at the retreat, this story alone would have been worth every penny. God orchestrated so much more than could ever have been planned.

Maya joined a team for activities including races and an obstacle course, and in the end, her team won! She continues to be in contact with her new friends and plans to visit more events at Camp Kulaqua. God has an amazing plan for Maya's life. Please keep her in your prayers as you continue your own journey, and remember, God loves you, and He cares about every detail in your life.

Never doubt that when God puts someone in your path, His design is far bigger than our own. Inspired to serve by doing something small? God can take that "small" act and turn it into something BIG for his glory.

Now is the time to LIVE to Serve!





# LIVING A LIFE OF SERVICE

By Melissa Simmons

We celebrate the selfless service of a pioneering shepherd of God's flock. Pastor Barbara McCoy has retired after 40+ years of service.

From the time Barbara was young, she felt drawn to people. Whether it was encouraging, motivating or simply listening - it was clear that she had a gift and became the cheerleader for those around her. This gift led her into a career as a teacher. It brought her pure joy when she would witness the "light" come on the sweet faces of her students after realizing they could succeed at something they previously thought was impossible. Seeing that light ignited Barbara's passion to love her neighbor in a more direct, more fulfilling way.

Helping others was ingrained in Barbara and her six siblings early on. If there was a family in need, her family took them in. If there was someone that needed their time, they gave it. Barbara learned that putting others first was not an option, but a way of life. Raised as devout Catholic, she graduated from the Catholic school system and went on to earn a degree in special needs education from a public university. A young graduate trying to

find her way in life, she felt God's calling to serve others but had not yet found her mission.

Inspired to join a friend on a trip to New Mexico, she stumbled upon a tent meeting that piqued her interest. The message she heard captivated her. Hungry for the truth, she continued attending the evangelistic meetings where a seed was planted in her heart and nourished by the Holy Spirit. Shortly thereafter, she was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church. While her family was shocked by her choice, they valued her desire to serve and supported her newfound path.

As much as she loved working as a teacher, she felt God calling her in a different direction. The realization that there was such a deficit in people's spiritual lives inspired Barbara to start telling others about her walk with God. This led her to the decision to resign from her position as a teacher and become a full-time self-employed Bible worker which in turn led to six of her friends choosing to give their lives to God and be baptized. Without question, her leap of faith was exactly where God wanted her.

At that point, Barbara had the opportunity to leave New Mexico and travel to Oregon with the pastor who had baptized her and his family. She assisted them with evangelistic meetings and Bible studies, furthering her ability to reach people in a very real way. Even though she felt in her heart that she was doing the right thing, the reality that she had to provide for herself led her to accepting a call to Kansas City, Missouri as a part time secretary for the church during the day and a Bible worker doing evangelistic meetings and Bible studies in the evenings. This continued for two years, but money was tight, so she considered returning to teaching at the nearby church school, but God had another plan. After the conference president heard of her plight, he felt impressed to double her salary as a Bible worker, because he saw a gift in her that needed to be given room to grow. This allowed Barbara to continue growing in the ministry God had laid on her heart.

A short time later, after receiving a call to come to Florida, Barbara once again trusted God's leading and joined the Jacksonville First Church. For six years, Barbara served as a Bible worker touching the lives of many. During her time there, mutual friends introduced her to a young literature evangelist that lived in New York. The two fell in love, and even though the distance was great, they trusted that God would open doors for their future together. In January of 1987, Barbara accepted a new position at Forest Lake Church in Apopka, Florida, as their first female pastor. Miraculously, God also opened the door and a position became available for this young literature evangelist and Barbara and Les were married on July 12, 1987.

As a pioneer of her time, Barbara knew that becoming a female pastor would not come without its challenges. During the first couple of years at Forest Lake Church, changes were taking place in ministry all over the country and women were starting to transition from Bible workers into pastoring roles. It was a cultural shift and, as with most change, it was at times painful, but God prevailed.

As she delved into her role as the Children and Family Ministries pastor, she also set her sight on achieving her master's degree from Andrews University. With her ministry flourishing, she was happy, but could not deny her heart's desire to become a mom. As with many things in her life she turned to God in prayer. After what seemed like eternity, in the fall of 1990 the McCoy's welcomed their fervently prayed for daughter, Lauren McCoy.

With great joy also came challenges. Trying to balance being a new mom and growing a ministry was tough, but the support from the church family was crucial. During her childhood, Lauren spent much of her time at church, so much so that she considered it her second home. A dream began to unfold on Barbara's heart that all children who set foot into Forest Lake Church would also consider it their second home. In the early 90's, as more children came into the fold, the need began to arise for more space and the dream for a children's facility was born.



God instilled in Barbara a passion—a passion to help others realize their God given gifts, to find their calling, and a passion to build a community of believers. Putting others above herself, she has been generous with her time, weeping and rejoicing alongside those that have crossed her path, but most of all prayerfully lifting others up and praying not only to make an impact, but to be impacted. She has always desired to not be complacent, but to do what God has called and in doing so has prayed that other men and women would be inspired to serve God in a way that the world so desperately needs.

After 30+ years of service at the Forest Lake Church, Barbara's greatest dream was realized when the new Children and Family Ministries building was opened on September 21, 2019. Today, over 800 children are registered from Cradle Roll to 4th grade. This is not because of Barbara's work alone, but comes as a direct result of God working in many lives and a young woman heeding the call that God placed on her heart. Each one of us has a gift that can be used for the glory of God, but we must trust Him and be willing to allow Him to work within us and through us.

Barbara's favorite verse is Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." This has carried her family through many hills and valleys and is a promise that will continue to guide her future. Even though retirement takes her out of her current role, her plan is to still be very involved in serving her church family and trusting God as He continues to open doors in her life.





# A HEART TO SERVE IN THE MIDST OF TRAGEDY

*By Melissa Simmons*



SCAN FOR  
VIDEO

For more information and how to be involved with the Jordan Smelski Foundation, please visit:  
[www.jordansmelskifoundation.org](http://www.jordansmelskifoundation.org) or [@jordansmelskifoundation](https://www.facebook.com/jordansmelskifoundation) on Facebook.



When you lose your only child you do whatever it takes to keep their memory alive. That is what Steve and Shelly Smelski have spent their lives doing since that tragic day six years go.

Jordan Smelski lived life at full speed - jumping off rocks, counters, beds, and couches. He had little fear of the unknown. An outgoing and bubbly boy, Jordan had a zest for life and always had a smile to prove it. He spent much of his time playing every sport he could and adventuring with his family. He embodied the sentiment, "Living life to the fullest."

In late June 2014, 11-year-old Jordan was enjoying a summer vacation with his family in Costa Rica. They spent their days swimming, playing, relaxing, and enjoying all that Costa Rica had to offer. As they were nearing the end of their trip, Jordan and Steve decided to spend one of their last days at the resort's water slide and hot springs. After many hours of playing, father and son called it a day.

A couple days later, Jordan started complaining of a severe headache. Not thinking much of it, his parents gave him medication and continued their return home to Orlando. Unfortunately, the headaches didn't resolve and five days after swimming in the hot springs the Smelski's took Jordan to the Emergency Room. As physicians began to run various tests, they diagnosed Jordan with meningitis and told Steve and Shelly that he would probably be better within three to five days. Relief flooded through them and they clung to the hope that their only child would soon be back on his feet. There was never a thought that Jordan would not recover.

A week after swimming, the doctors remarked that it would probably be closer to three weeks before Jordan would be able to go home, but they were hopeful since he appeared stable. Then the roller coaster began again when Jordan's vitals started dropping. At that point, they decided to bring in a neurologist to look at the fluid pressing down on his brain. After the neurologist examined the fluid they were shocked to find the amoeba, *Naegleria fowleri*. The realization that their son would not be going home hit Steve and Shelly when they learned that amoebas were 99% fatal. There was hope though; a drug known to treat the amoeba was shipped from the CDC in Atlanta, but it would not arrive in time...

Jordan passed just two hours before the medicine arrived.

As a result of their tragedy, Steve and Shelly Smelski have had a strong desire to bring awareness to the risk of amoebas and have worked closely with AdventHealth to do so. They also have worked to continue Jordan's legacy...There were two things that Jordan loved: Christmas and sports. Thus was born Jordan's Sporting Goods store, open for two days every December to provide children without means a chance for the same joy Jordan had playing sports. Each year, they collect donations of new or gently used sporting goods equipment that is then made available at no cost to families in need.

This past December, the Smelski's lost their location that was used in previous years. In their search for a new location, they got wind of the former Walgreens that had been acquired as the home of the new Innovation Lab near Forest Lake Academy. A friend suggested they contact the Florida Conference Office about the space.

After connecting with William Cochran, Director of Property Development at the Conference office, an agreement was reached and a contract signed for the Smelski's to turn the old Walgreens into a winter wonderland store for needy families for two days in December. With a team of volunteers, a vision became reality and Jordan's Sporting Goods store was ready to open. Housing a bike shop inside the store allowed them to fix, repair, and assemble bikes as they came in and thus they were able to provide an abundance of sporting goods to more than 500 less fortunate children. Altogether, 126 bikes, 30+ skateboards, 40+ scooters, countless footballs, basketballs, and even fishing poles found new homes for Christmas.

A lot of people struggle with the question, "Can I make a difference?" The answer is "yes you can!" The hardest part is taking that first leap of faith. Everyone worries about failure, but it is amazing what happens when we trust God and wait on Him as He opens doors. When we think that we can't make a difference, God helps us along and gives us the wisdom that we can do much more than we think we are capable of, we just have to trust.



# SERVICE ABOVE SELF

By Phil Younts

Sometimes we think that we have to be a preacher, or a teacher, to serve God. But God has given everyone talents they can use to serve others. Camp Kulaqua is a ministry of service. God has called each worker at Camp to use their talents to serve others. Very few of us here at Camp are preachers or teachers, but we all have specific talents that keep camp functioning and serving the churches of Florida Conference. Our mission statement says:

## SERVING TOGETHER FOR JESUS...

- In His Church
- In His Community
- In His Creation

## FURTHERING THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

I have often shared the example with staff about the park bench sitting under the trees close to the office. We often see people sitting on the bench reading the Bible talking with a friend or praying to God.

I have often shared the example with staff about the park bench sitting under the trees close to the office. We often see people sitting on the bench reading the Bible, talking with a friend, or praying to God. So, I share with the staff that whoever built the bench and keeps the grounds beautiful, creates an atmosphere that allows the Holy Spirit to speak to those who sit on that bench. This act of providing an environment that allows connection to our Savior is just another piece to sharing the Gospel; that fits alongside the sermon that was preached in the morning by a preacher, or lesson taught in the afternoon by a teacher. I would like to invite you to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and come out to the solitude and beauty of God's creation.

Our camp family is here waiting to serve you and your family. We hope to see you soon! We will leave the light on for you.



# THE RED TOUR is all about LOVE

By Pedro Perez

Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14

In 2020, the **RED** Tour will challenge churches to focus on LOVE!

We are praying for churches to come to life and put plans in place to experience what it looks like ... when LOVE wins! The **RED** Tour is an opportunity for churches in the Florida Conference to take LOVE to the next level in their congregation, leadership, and community.

In ten different locations, all over the state of Florida, three ministries are partnering to present three of the best trainings available to churches.

**Children/Family Life – Learning to Love**  
Sermon/Seminars – Learn how to love God, love others, and love yourself! This is the foundation. It starts with each individual in the church committing to ... LOVE.

## Pathfinders/Adventurers – A New Kind of Leader Seminar

A New Kind of Leader is a leader who is loving and leading kids better because they are learning how to work as a team, connect with parents, improve the environment for kids, and recruit others to help them do more, consistently, every week.



**Refocus · Engage · Discover**

## Youth/Young Adult – Growing Young

Many Adventist churches are “graying”; Let’s start conversations about how churches can grow younger; how can we set up environments where young people want to stay and open opportunities for young people to take over leadership positions?

These three words: **Refocus, Engage, Discover** are at the heart of what the RED Tour is all about. These three words capture the essence and describe the potential churches have to reposition themselves to Love better, Love deeper and give God a chance to help us catch a fresh glimpse of what LOVE can do!

[www.floridaconference.com/redtour](http://www.floridaconference.com/redtour)

# GLOBAL YOUTH DAY



On March 21, 2020, millions of Adventist Youth around the world will unite to be the hands and feet of Jesus as they organize food and water drives and other community service projects in their neighborhoods.

We honor God when we serve and care for others.  
Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one  
of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you  
did for me," Matthew 25:40.

Don't just stop with Global Youth Day. We can significantly impact our community by simply showing them **I CARE.**

# #GYD20

[www.floridaconference.com/gyd2020](http://www.floridaconference.com/gyd2020)

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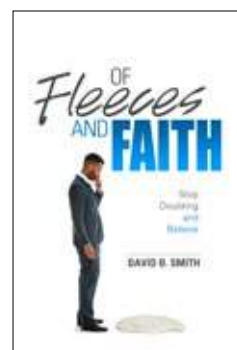
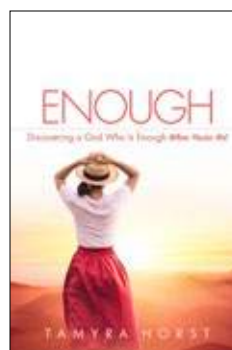
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CAMP MEETING  
T-SHIRT

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# BOOKS

## NEW BOOKS

	Sale Price	Regular Price
40 Days Prayers and Devotions on God's Law and It's Blessings <i>by Dennis Smith</i>	\$9.99	\$13.99
Daring to Live By Every Word <i>by Melody Mason</i>	\$15.99	\$19.99
Enough <i>by Tamara Horst</i>	\$12.99	\$15.99
Genesis and Science <i>by Leonard Brand</i>	\$3.99	\$4.99
Keep on Keeping On With Jesus <i>by Jim Gilley</i>	\$11.99	\$14.99
Living For God <i>by Frank Hasel</i>	\$11.99	\$14.99
More Than Fishy Crackers <i>by Shawna Campbell</i>	\$8.99	\$10.99
Of Fleeces and Faith <i>by David Smith</i>	\$11.99	\$14.99
Pray Big: God Can Do So Much More <i>by Cindy Mercer</i>	\$13.99	\$16.99
Prophecy's Answer to Philosophy's Confusion <i>by Chris Holland</i>	\$12.99	\$15.99
Regrets on an African River <i>by Jeff Scoggins</i>	\$11.99	\$14.99
Secrets Uncovered <i>by Leonard Brand</i>	\$15.99	\$19.99
Story Catcher <i>by Richard Duerksen</i>	\$11.99	\$14.99
Through the Seasons with God <i>by Olga Valdivia</i>	\$14.99	\$17.99
Truth About the Sabbath <i>by Steve Wohlberg</i>	\$2.79	\$2.99



## RECENTLY RELEASED

	Sale Price	Regular Price
13 Weeks to Joy	\$15.99	\$19.99
Darkness will not Overcome	\$10.99	\$13.99
Preaching from the Grave	\$12.99	\$15.99
Steps to Christ Activity Book	\$7.99	\$9.99

## HEALTH BOOKS

	Sale Price	Regular Price
Kick Diabetes Essentials	\$24.95	
The Powerful Plate	\$15.99	\$19.99

## KID'S BOOKS

	Sale Price	Regular Price
Bing of the Kobuk	\$10.99	\$13.99
God Said it: Old Testament Heroes V. 2 & 3	\$0.79	\$0.99
Guide's Greatest Second Coming Stories	\$9.99	\$11.99
Securely Strong- God's Faithful Friends	\$14.99	\$18.99

## SPANISH BOOKS

	Sale Price	Regular Price
Manual del Discipulado	\$9.99	\$11.99
Textos Dificiles	\$10.99	\$13.99
La Fe Que Vence al Mundo	\$12.99	\$15.99
Fe Para Compartir	\$2.79	\$3.49

## COMING SOON

52 Sermons for Kids from Nature *by Anne Pilmoor*  
 The Heavenly Trio *by Ty Gibson*  
 Pocket Dictionary for Understanding Adventism *by Michael Campbell*  
 Prophets in Conflict *by George Knight*  
 Understanding Daniel & Revelation *by Mark Finley*  
 Words of Hope *by Ellen White*



## LOMA LINDA

	<b>Sale Price</b>	<b>Regular Price</b>
Big Franks 20 oz reg or low-fat	<b>\$61.99</b>	\$69.99
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Choplets	<b>\$61.99</b>	\$69.99
FriChik 12.5 oz reg or low-fat	<b>\$51.99</b>	\$59.99
Linkettes	<b>\$61.99</b>	\$69.99
Little Links	<b>\$61.99</b>	\$69.99
Swiss Stake 13 oz	<b>\$51.99</b>	\$59.99
Tender Bits	<b>\$61.99</b>	\$69.99
Tender Rounds	<b>\$61.99</b>	\$69.99
Vege Burger	<b>\$61.99</b>	\$69.99
Vegt. Skallops 20 oz	<b>\$61.99</b>	\$69.99
Vegetarian Burger 20 oz	<b>\$61.99</b>	\$69.99
Linkettes 96 oz	<b>\$105.99</b>	\$119.99
Vegt. Skallops 50 oz	<b>\$132.99</b>	\$149.99
Vegetarian Burger 50 oz	<b>\$132.99</b>	\$149.99

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Deli Dogs	<b>\$28.99</b>	\$33.99



## WORTHINGTON

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Dinner Roast	<b>\$73.99</b>	\$85.99
Turkey Roast (1lb Dinner Roast)	<b>\$49.99</b>	\$57.99
<b>Rolls 4 lbs:</b>		
Chicken, Chic-kett, Corned Beef, Salami, Turkey & Wham	<b>\$93.99</b>	\$109.99
<b>Rolls 16 oz: Chic-kett or Prosage</b>	<b>\$73.99</b>	\$85.99
<b>Slices:</b>		
Chicken, Corned Beef, Ham (Wham®) Salami, & Turkey	<b>\$28.99</b>	\$32.99
FriPats, Leanies, Sausage Links, or Sausage Patties	<b>\$28.99</b>	\$32.99
Fri-Pat 48 ct	<b>\$39.99</b>	\$48.99
X Burger 8 oz	<b>\$4.89</b>	\$5.69
X Burger 8 oz (Case)	<b>\$25.99</b>	\$29.99
X Burger 10 oz	<b>\$22.99</b>	\$30.99



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### CAMP KULAQUA STORE HOURS:

Thursday April 16, 10am-7pm  
Friday April 17, 9am-5pm  
Sat night April 18, 8:30pm-10pm  
Sunday April 19, 9am-3pm

# USED BOOK SALE

KULAQUA PORCH

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020



## CAMP MEETING 2020 DELIVERY SCHEDULE

### APRIL 1 WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM	9:45 AM	PORT SAINT LUCIE SDA CHURCH
10:45 AM	11:15 AM	WEST PALM BEACH 1ST CHURCH
12:15 PM	12:45 PM	POMPANO BEACH SDA CHURCH
1:15 PM	1:45 PM	MARGATE SDA CHURCH
2:15 PM	2:45 PM	AMBASSADOR SDA CHURCH
3:15 PM	3:45 PM	PLANTATION SDA CHURCH

### APRIL 15 WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM	9:00 AM	WINTER HAVEN SDA CHURCH
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	AVON PARK SDA CHURCH
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	CAPE CORAL SDA CHURCH
2:00 PM	2:30 PM	FT. MYERS SDA CHURCH
3:00 PM	3:45 PM	LEHIGH ACRES SDA CHURCH
4:45 PM	5:15 PM	NAPLES SDA CHURCH

### APRIL 26 SUNDAY

8:30 AM	9:00 AM	INVERNESS SDA CHURCH
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	HOMOSASSA SDA CHURCH
11:15 AM	11:45 AM	BROOKSVILLE SDA CHURCH
12:30 PM	1:00 PM	SPRING HILL SDA CHURCH
1:45 PM	2:15 PM	NEW PORT RICHEY SDA CHURCH
3:00 PM	3:30 PM	CLEARWATER SDA CHURCH
4:15 PM	4:45 PM	ST. PETERSBURG SDA CHURCH

### APRIL 5 SUNDAY

8:30 AM	9:00 AM	EAST PASCO SDA CHURCH
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	TAMPA SDA CHURCH
12:00 PM	12:30 PM	BRANDON SDA CHURCH
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	WEST COAST CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
3:00 PM	3:30 PM	SARASOTA SDA CHURCH
4:30 PM	5:00 PM	PORT CHARLOTTE SDA CHURCH

### APRIL 19 SUNDAY

11:00 AM	11:30 AM	KENDALL SDA CHURCH
12:30 PM	1:00 PM	MIAMI TEMPLE SDA CHURCH
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	MIAMI SPRINGS SDA CHURCH
2:45 PM	3:15 PM	MARANATHA SDA CHURCH
3:45 PM	4:15 PM	SUNRISE SDA CHURCH
6:00 PM	6:30 PM	MIDPORT SDA CHURCH

### APRIL 29 WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM	9:00 AM	LEESBURG SDA CHURCH
9:30 AM	10:00 AM	LADY LAKE SDA CHURCH
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	OCALA SDA CHURCH
1:15 PM	1:45 PM	PERRY SDA CHURCH
3:30 PM	4:00 PM	TALLAHASSEE SDA CHURCH

### APRIL 8 WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM	9:00 AM	WINTER HAVEN SDA CHURCH
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	AVON PARK SDA CHURCH
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	CAPE CORAL SDA CHURCH
2:00 PM	2:30 PM	FT. MYERS SDA CHURCH
3:00 PM	3:45 PM	LEHIGH ACRES SDA CHURCH
4:45 PM	5:15 PM	NAPLES SDA CHURCH

### APRIL 22 WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM	9:00 AM	DELTONA SPANISH SDA CHURCH
9:30 AM	10:00 AM	DAYTONA SDA CHURCH
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	NEW SMYRNA BEACH SDA CHURCH
12:00 PM	12:30 PM	TITUSVILLE SDA CHURCH
1:30 PM	2:00 PM	COCOA SDA CHURCH
2:30 PM	3:15 PM	PALM BAY SDA CHURCH
4:30 PM	5:00 PM	FORT PIERCE SDA CHURCH

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# Relaciones que **TRANSFORMAN**

*"Por esto conocerán que son mis discípulos... si se aman..." - Jesús*

*"El que no ama no conoce a Dios... porque Dios es amor..." - Juan*

*"Si yo tuviese todo... y no tengo amor nada soy..." - Pablo*

Por Henry Barrios

La Biblia es sumamente clara con respecto a lo que Dios regala al ser humano cuando está en una relación de fe con Él: la capacidad para amar... Dios desea revelarse al ser humano con una sola finalidad: que el hombre experimente su amor. La gran revelación de Dios no es doctrinal, sino es una revelación de un principio: el amor, que posibilita el saneamiento de la relación de Dios con el hombre a través de Jesucristo y el saneamiento de las relaciones entre los seres humanos.

Como el discípulo de Jesús tiene a Dios como centro de su vida, se convierte en el canal que el Señor utiliza para dar a conocer su amor a otros. Dios es amor, Dios no cambia pero el amor nos cambia, nos transforma, porque ahora vivimos con una misión clara: mostrar el amor de Dios a otros.

El cristiano ama porque Dios ama. El verdadero discípulo de Jesús se relaciona con otros en amor, porque no puede hacerlo de otra manera, de lo contrario no sería discípulo sino que sería un simple miembro de iglesia que deshonra el carácter de Dios.

Amamos a todos, no importa la raza, color o ideología, porque Dios nos amó primero. Así como el amor de Dios transforma nuestra vida, el amor al prójimo transforma la vida de los que se contactan con nosotros.

Amar es más que sentir algo. Amar es tener a Dios en el corazón y decidir mostrar a Dios, cualquiera sea el contexto de la relación con el prójimo. Es ir más allá de los sentimientos. Amar es actuar como Dios. Es ser verdadero e íntegro. Amar nos transforma y transforma. Se manifiesta en una relación creciente con Dios, con nuestros cónyuges, hijos, hermanos en la fe, con mis amigos y con mis enemigos. El amor es poder transformador para bendición de mi vida y de los que se relacionan conmigo.

Nuestra meta dentro de las congregaciones de la Asociación de la Florida es llegar a vivir este amor con tanta pasión que todas nuestras relaciones sean transformadoras y de esta manera los que nos rodean sepan que somos el pueblo de Dios... Estamos seguros que si esta fuera la experiencia, nuestras Iglesias no estarían concentradas en cuestiones secundarias que no edifican, no estarían buscando pleitos por puntos de vista divergentes, no buscarían contiendas inútiles, sino que, concentrados en amar, crecerían en la unidad de pensamiento y acción, y la misión se haría más clara a la vista de todos. Así viviremos en amor y buscaremos que otros puedan conocer el amor, a través de nosotros, porque la esencia del amor es Cristo.

¡Los invitamos a vivir relaciones que transforman!





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