

Constant Comment @ FLCOG

A Weekly Florida Church of God Newsletter

April 14, 2008

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Around the State.....

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
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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.

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.

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.

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Pastors' Meeting at Church in the Gardens

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@fcog.org, no later than April 17. 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":

Community Chapel First Church - Mt. Dora
Cornerstone Community Church - New Port Richie
First Church - North Port



Jimmy Gonzalez



Mary Huebner



Bill Ferguson

Introducing the 2008 Student Ministry of Florida Church of God Ministries

The 2008 team brings together a wide range of gifts and perspectives to assess, strategize and begin planning the Student Ministry efforts for our state in 2008. The team for this year includes:

-Mary Huebner - Huebner.mary@gmail.com - Tampa/West Coast: Mary has worked with the past state youth ministry team for many years, worked in the local ministry with youth in several states, and currently writes for Interline Student Ministry Resources. Mary will lead the team's renewal efforts with the Youth Leadership Institute for our state and with a national team from the Church of God.

-Gamaliel (Jimmy) Gonzalez - Pastorgamaliel@iamsharper.org - Coconut Creek/SE Florida - Jimmy works with Christian Education and Student Ministries at the Genesis Christian Center church plant. He is new to state ministry work, but brings gifts and perspectives on youth ministry that will add to our team's effectiveness. Jimmy will be finding his role this year in various areas of the team's efforts and programming.

-Howard Harrison - ph@phministries.com - Orlando/Central: Howard joins the team after completing a good year in 2007 as the State Youth Pastor and Coach for Florida Church of God Ministries. Currently, he is pastoring the First Church of God in Orlando. Howard will lead the team's efforts in planning culturally sensitive youth events in each district around the state. He

will be providing essential connections with the Florida Association churches and young people.

-Josh Boldman - joshb@westsidecc.org - Orlando/Central. Josh is full-time Youth Pastor at Westside Community Church of God in Apopka. Josh uses the latest technology and web-resources in youth ministry. He will be leading the team's efforts in developing online student ministry resources and networking. Josh has an IPHONE!!!!

-Bill Ferguson - billf@flocog.org - Miami/SE Florida - Bill is facilitating the 2008 Student Ministries Leadership Team as State Youth Pastor and Coach. He will be leading the team's efforts in renewal of the (Youth Ministry Leaders) Leadership Institute and Leadership Coaching and Clustering for state youth leaders.

Our team desires to add value to local student ministries in Florida. Through local ministries and state events we want to see young Christ-followers raised up and empowered to live out His message and ministry in their world. If you'd like to be involved with our efforts, let us know. We'll put you to work!!! If you need help in student ministry as a congregation, as a student ministry leader or as a student, contact us. We'll do our best to support, encourage, guide and direct you to resources.

Pray for our team and each member. We believe it is going to be a great year in Florida Church of God Student Ministries!

Bill Ferguson
State Youth Pastor and Coach

Calendar of Events

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

Have a wonderful God-filled week!

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