

January 2024

FLORIDA COM NEWS

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From our chaplain

Praying for all COM to have a Blessed New Year-2024.

We are standing on the shoulders of so many wonderful COM members who went before us. Let's all serve together in the love of Christ this year!

We are thankful for all the COM for your faithful service this past year and for all the plans and hard work you plan to do in 2024 !!

God bless ,

Charles Carnley

Florida COM Chaplain

850-525-6400

*** 1 Thessalonians 5:11- Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.



NORTH FLORIDA FAIR

SAVE THE DATES

NOVEMBER 7-November 17, 2024

In each newsletter we would like to highlight one area of the North Florida Fair ministry. This month, we will share what the COM members assigned to the Mission Booth do. The mission booth is the heart of our ministry. It is where the gospel is shared over and over every day of the fair. Begin praying now for those who will

stop by the mission booth this coming November and for the COM members manning the booth.

In the mission booth, we paint faces, make balloon animals, make salvation bracelets and do games and puzzles, all with the goal of having the opportunity to share a testimony of what God has done for us and to share the gospel.



Regional News

Northwest Region

We had a great turnout for the 2023 Campers on Mission Lunch. Jim's Buffet and Grill in Mariana were very helpful in coordinating our meeting room as well as all out needs during lunch. The food was excellent and the fellowship was rich. There were new acquaintances made and old ones renewed.

It was good to have our Region 2 Representative, Barbara Rotunda, with us.

Our State Chaplain, Charles Carnley lead us in prayer not only for the meal but for our members that have had loss in the past year, currently with health needs, as well as prayer for God leading COM NW FL and the rest of the state on places to serve in 2024.

Crawford Odom lead a devotion from Luke Chapter 2. Comparison was made on how we members of Campers on mission have commonalities with the shepherds at the time of Jesus birth. Serving, teaching and leading, protecting, and building and repairing were all commonalities discussed.

Two 2024 projects were highlighted. NW FL region will host a project at Baptist College in Graceville March 3rd thru the 8th. They have around 10+ campsites, all with 30/50 service. We have access to their cafeteria for lunch and dinner for those that would like to do that. We will arrive on Sunday afternoon and depart Friday morning. Right now we have four couples interested in participating. There are several things needing to be done. The first project we can do is a large pressure washing job. If there are additional people interested, there is some floor removal, painting, etc that need to be done as well. We will open each day with a devotion before we accomplish the work assigned to us. If you are interested, email Crawford & Elizabeth Odom odome54@aol.com or call Crawford 850.525.1053c.

The North FL Fair was also promoted since it will be a state wide emphasis project. Joe Rotunda gave an update on what was accomplished at the fair. Praise the Lord for 103 professions of faith during the 2023 fair. The dates for the fair this year, November 7th through 17th.

Thanks for all that worked this past year, and all were asked to pray about their participation for this year in 2024. There is a vision to expand our ministry to the carnies if we get enough participation.

Campers on Mission North West Florida is looking forward to an exciting 2024! See you on the field!



Southeast Region

We had a wonderful Christmas lunch at CJ Cannon Vero Beach airport on December 8, 2023.

We had John and Beverly Jackson, Edgar and Jamie Gregory, Travis Lewis, and Sandy and Debbie Gould.

The Jacksons are retired from traveling but still would like invites. Such a sweet couple. Edgar and Jamie Gregory are on the Dental Bus team and also help with fair ministry and Disaster Relief. One new COM member is Travis Lewis he is ready to share the Gospel in song and teaching salvation.

Sandy and I are wagon masters we will be helping with the Fair Ministry and the Mobil Dental Unit and American Red Cross and our Church. 1Chronicles 16:23 Sing to the Lord all the earth, proclaim his salvation day after day.





Northeast Region

Wishing each of you a Happy New Year! Since we finished with the North Florida Fair in November, the NE Region held their annual Christmas Luncheon at "The Yearling" restaurant in Cross Creek, Florida. We wanted to be able to gather in a place as centrally located as possible to encourage more attendance. The food was great and the fellowship was even greater. It was so good to see some of our long time folks we had not seen for a while. Our newest members, Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus, entertained the group with their ministry report. They are retired and this is something they do year round. Their emphasis is on the fact that the greatest gift of all is available any time of the year, not just at Christmas!! Everyone welcomed them to our group and we are all looking forward to having them share with us at our North Florida Fair Ministry in November, 2024. We had a total of 18 campers in attendance. Everyone brought a gift which we delivered to our local "Angel Tree" for the terminally ill children in Shand's Hospital. Gary Stewart, state project director, shared information about some upcoming and also some on going project needs in our region and also other areas of the state. Several members of our region were not able to attend due to health issues. We are praying for you and hope to see you again soon "As We Go".

Report from Region 2 Coordinator, Barbara Rotunda

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year and praying that 2024 will be your best year ever. As your regional representative I have been "on the go" since the North Florida Fair in November. I spent Thanksgiving week-end "on the road" delivering Christmas gifts to the children at Black Mountain Children's Home in Black Mountain, NC. This is a wonderful ministry serving the needs of children in foster care. They need volunteers year round, in the cafe, thrift store, office and other areas on their beautiful campus. The RV park for volunteers is top notch with a wonderful community center complete with a full kitchen and laundry facilities. The rocking chairs on the porch are so inviting, especially with a nice fire going in the two sided fire-place. If you have never been to Black Mountain, you should make plans to do so.

Joe and I attended the NW Region Christmas luncheon at Jim's Buffet in Marianna. Crawford and Elizabeth Odom did a great job of hosting this group and having us play "Christmas Truths & Traditions" multiple choice questions. Many of us learned we just "thought" we knew the "Christmas Story" as presented in the Bible.

The NE Christmas luncheon at "The Yearling" restaurant in Cross Creek was a "first" for several of our members. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship as well as the museum from the book and movie "The Yearling" by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

I really enjoyed spending time at Real Life Ministry's Christmas Camp in Blue Springs. This camp is held each year starting the day after Christmas for 4 days. The Real Life Ministry vision for having a camp for children in foster care in Florida was a wonderful experience. To see so many children being given the opportunity to have a camp experience, and learning about the "greatest gift" through song and drama was a wonderful way to end my Christmas holidays.. Real Life Ministry has done wonders with the campus at Blue Springs and also at their newest campus in Vero Beach. The director, William Bloodworth, has a heart for children and it definitely is felt at Blue Spring's latest campus addition Still Waters. This transition house for foster children is awesome. He told me "Campers On Mission" are what helped make this vision a



reality. There are so many opportunities for volunteers at Real Life, year round, but especially during their summer camps and Christmas Camp. If you want to receive a real blessing by serving, you are needed and always welcome at Real Life Ministry.

The South Carolina Campers on Mission Winter gathering is always a great way to start the New Year. This annual event was held at State Street Baptist Church in Cayce, SC on Saturday, January 6th. The fellowship and reports of various projects completed and on-going was an inspiration. Several South Carolina folks have worked at Blue Springs and Vero Beach with Real Life. They are presently serving at Bonifay Fl. First Baptist Church and Bethlehem Camp for the winter months. If any of the folks from Florida are looking for a project thru March, they would welcome your help. Where ever you are, even those members who are no longer able to "GO" but are at home serving as prayer warriors for Campers On Mission, just want to say "I love you and pray for you every day" as we are "Sharing Jesus".

From our State Project Director

2023 has been a good year for updating our Projects list in Florida. We have cleaned out Fl. COM list of projects that no longer needed our services and have added some new ones that do. We now have a total of fifty-five Projects, in and out of the state of Florida. This includes our Fairs also. And prayerfully, and hopefully they are the type of project we can help in some way. If you need a list of Projects just let us know, I can email it or send a hard copy through the U.S. Mail Service. Either way.

We are very thankful for all those Hero's that volunteered for Florida COM this year. Some overcoming obstacles to do so and doing that (volunteering) will not make it to a CNN News broadcast. But my Bible tells me that a very, very important newsroom sees what is really going on and there is celebration in the presences of angels. Luke 15:10; Ephesians 3:10; 1Peter 1:12d

One more thing, if you have a praise or prayer concern that you would want to share. Send it to me and we will mention it at COM Monthly Prayer Meeting.

Jesus loves you

Gary and Vicki Stewart