

January 2025

# FLORIDA COM NEWS

[www.floridacampersonmission.org](http://www.floridacampersonmission.org)



## From your president

It is 2025! Hard to believe, isn't it? God has given us another year and other opportunities to serve Him. As I write this, we have Florida Campers on Mission serving at Lake Aurora Christian Camp & Retreat Center in Lake Wales, Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center in Lake Placid and Real Life Ministries in Vero. Others are preparing to go to Immokalee and serve with the Florida Baptist Dental bus and still others preparing to serve at the Strawberry Festival which begins the end of February.

Still others are busy planning group projects, one at Baptist University of Florida in March and another in central Florida, probably in May.

I would encourage you to find a place to serve; maybe somewhere you have never been.

Grace and Peace,

Eileen



**NOVEMBER 7-November 17, 2024**

## North Florida Fair Report

Forty-eight people were able to serve at the fair, some for all 11 days, others for a few days. What did they accomplish? They scanned tickets for all 110,000 guests and they served as building hosts, greeting guests in 4 exhibition buildings. At the Mission Booth, they gave out salvation bracelets, sharing the gospel with every one who received a bracelet. They also made 3,000 balloon animals, 1000

buttons and had numerous meaningful spiritual conversations through the Knowledge Board, games and puzzles. God was gracious to allow 43 professions of faith and 4 who rededicated their life to Jesus.

All that in approximately 2,000 hours of service.

**NEXT FALL:** Save the dates! Come in for setup November 3rd or 4th and stay until November 16. You won't be disappointed!

---

# Region Reports

## Northeast

### Wagon masters Joe and Barbara Rotunda

We had a real nice Christmas luncheon at the Cedar River Seafood Restaurant in Gainesville.. The weather was terrible, cold and rainy which kept some of our folks at home who had planned to attend,. Also several of our folks have been sick and fighting the flu bug. Our crowd was smaller than in years past but so many of our members are so busy with doctor's visits, church activities, and family events it is just getting more difficult to find a time that fits into everyone's schedule. Mark & Dee had family visiting but were able to make the luncheon. It was great to see Donna Huff since she was not able to attend the North Florida Fair. Also Marilyn Grant's niece drove her and we are hoping she will become a member. She is retired military and loves to travel and camp. Of course Mr & Mrs Santa (the Varnes) were a big hit as well. We collected some really nice gifts for the children who were affected by the hurricane and we delivered them the next day. The First Baptist Church in Perry was the collection site and it was really great to be able to help out. The pastor's wife sent a text that they received over 750 gifts and were able to do Christmas for over 600 families that probably would not have had a Christmas had it not been for all the different folks who helped make this possible. We wish everyone a Blessed and Healthy 2025 and look forward to seeing many of you "As we go" this next year.

## Southeast

### Wagon masters Sandy and Debbie Gould

2024 we worked at the Strawberry Festival and had a wonderful time with volunteering with the Dental bus for the first time for one day. Then for the week worked at the fair serving the workers from the fair. We had some baptized from this ministry. In November we spent a week volunteering at the North Florida Fair it was a special time there. I want to welcome new members that joined this past year. Many blessings were made at these times. May God bless Campers on Mission for this new year.



## From the desk of the State Wagon Masters:

There is a large Missions Conference in Pensacola at Olive Baptist Church. Campers on Mission will have a table with COM members answering questions and handing out our brochures 1/31-2/2/25.

Mark and Dee Krueger's church is also having a missions conference and will promote COM at the end of January.

How about your church or association? Are they having a missions emphasis where COM can be promoted? We can provide you with brochures to hand out if you have an opportunity to promote our ministry.

If you are doing a service project this year and you represent COM, take a few pictures and send to our President to include in the news letters.

Happy Camping, Crawford & Elizabeth Odom

---

### Spring Mini Rally and Opportunity to Serve

Baptist University of Florida Graceville Campus

Week of March 3rd. Arrive on Sunday Work to Begin on Monday

Barbeque Supper will be served at 4:30 Sunday evening. Sean Cook, Director of Mobilization (Missions) Olive Baptist Church will bring a word for us after the meal.

Two Main Focus projects 1) Painting out door Shelters (oil based paint) & 2) Replacing flooring on two or three outdoor decks. There are other things that need taken care of like cleaning and painting in the apartments etc.

Last year we were able to eat lunch and dinner at the campus cafeteria for about \$5 per meal. We will have that same kind of deal this year but I have not firmed up the price. Details to follow.

Crawford Odom will be on the campus January 27th for a site survey and firm up final details. Final information will be sent out after that visit. Since we first announced this at the Tallahassee Fair, several have already shown interest. We look forward to working with all that are available.

We will open each day with a 15 minute devotion. If you would be willing to lead one let Crawford know.

There are ten 50/30 amp sites and five 30 amp sites. There is water and sewer as well.



**Contact:**

Crawford Odom - [cwodom54@outlook.com](mailto:cwodom54@outlook.com); cell: 850-5251053 for questions and/or confirmation of participation.

---

---

## From Our Chaplain

Greetings COM this 2025:

Pray for you all to have a good New Year!

Psalm 103:1-4 (NAS)

1– Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His Holy Name.

2– Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;

3– Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases;

4– Who redeems your life from the pit,

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;

5– Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is RENEWED like the eagle.

God bless and keep everyone in His care,

Charles Carnley

Florida State Chaplain

---

## River of Life Church

River of Life Church in Deltona has been the location and driving force for the Christmas in the Country ministry for over 10 years. Florida Campers on Mission has come along side of them for the last 3 years, providing balloons, face painting, bracelets and, most importantly, one on one evangelism.

This year, during Christmas in the Country, their pastor, lead person for the ministry and Seminole County Sheriff's Office Chaplain was unexpectedly taken home to heaven. He leaves a big hole in Christmas in the Country, his church and the community as a whole.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Gene's wife and family and for River of Life Church.



---

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ernest and Helen Armstrong live in Tallahassee. Helen has the privilege of calling our recording secretary, Bea Kenyon her sister. Ernie and Helen, we are happy to have you as members.

---



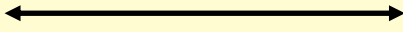
# Pictures



North Florida Fair



Real Life Camps Vero and Marianna



Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center

