

May 2025

# FLORIDA COM NEWS

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## From your president

We have just returned from a project at the Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center. More about that later but I can't help but think about the joy that working with other Campers on Mission, both longtime friends and coworkers and new friends brings. If you don't work projects with other Campers on Mission, you are really missing a blessing.

It is just 3 weeks until the National Rally and I hope you have your reservations in. There will be singing, preaching, food, fun times and time to hang out with brothers and sisters from all over the country.

Thank you to each of you who have given time and energy to work on so many different projects this first half of the year. I can't wait until the fall rally where we can gather together and hear about what everyone had done.

Grace and Peace,

Eileen Ansley



**NOVEMBER 3-16, 2025**

## North Florida Fair

It is that time again: Time to mark your calendars and save the dates! Come in for setup **November 3rd or 4th and stay through November 16**. If you don't have that long to give, come for a weekend or as long as you can. It takes 40-45 people every day to cover the posts we need to cover. You won't be disappointed! Many fair guests give their lives to the Lord there every year.

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# Region Reports

## Northeast

### Wagon Master Barbara Colthurst

Things have been a little quiet in the NE Region since several of us volunteered at the North Florida Fair last fall. Gary & Vicky Stewart led some of our members and other RV volunteers in our booth which was set up at the Community Family Picnic on Palm Sunday. There were over 600 present. Our booth had 5 stations for salvation bracelets, face painting, balloon animals, Bible Quiz Board, puzzles and Wordless Book. We had 10 people who took every opportunity to spread the gospel of Jesus. We would like to encourage more COM members to take part in this short-term (1 day) annual event. There are plenty of RV spots available at Lake Swan Camp which is only three miles away. This would



be a good project for COM members to “copy” in their area, either as a fall festival event, or a spring picnic. Along with our booth there was a 5000 egg Easter egg hunt, lots of games and music, inflatables, dunk tank, candy and free pulled pork sandwiches. It would be a good way to promote COM membership if several members from different churches could work together to sponsor it. Several of our folks are scheduled to “head to the mountains” for the summer where they will be volun-

teering at Truett Camp, Black Mountain and The Cove. Be safe as you travel. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Florida State Rally which will be held at the KOA Campground in Perry, FL, Thursday, October 30 thru Saturday, November 1.

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## Southeast

### Wagon Masters Sandy and Debbie Gould

This month, 11 of us had the privilege of serving for five days at the Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center. We painted a large building that they are just completing for



new worship and activity space. The men also worked on the zipline tower, replacing rotten steps and deck. Next time you have the opportunity to serve with other Campers on Mission, take advantage of it. Through our work, our meals and our evening devotions, we now know each other better and have become family.

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# Northwest

## Wagon Masters Jeff and Kay Mock

NW Florida COM had the opportunity to set up a booth at the Mission Conference at Olive Baptist Church on Feb 1 of this year. Six couples help man the booth over the weekend event.

The participants at our booth were Ray & Earline Campbell, Charles & Peggy Carnley, Russell & Patsy Goolsby, Randy & Diane Bondurant, Jeff & Kay Mock, Crawford & Elizabeth Odom.

We shared with many who never heard of COM and had a number of people who expressed interest in knowing more about the ministry.

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### From the Desk of the State Wagon Master:

Florida Campers on Mission have been very busy planning, helping, and working in 2025. We are thankful that God is calling new people to our group. We look forward to meeting our new people as well as serving with them.

The North Florida Mini Rally and work project happened the first week of March. This is our second year to work at the Baptist University of Florida (BUF) at Graceville. When I was first introduced to this facility by Ray Campbell in 2024, they asked that we replace the decking of their deck/dock on their lake that is shaped like the state of Florida. It has been closed for at least a year, due to boards that were unsafe to walk on. We had a very successful experience at the campus in 2024 but the deck was still a dream for the BUF staff.

While we were working at the North Florida Fair, November 24, the early coffee hour developed into a brain storming session of known project needs in the state. Howard Newberry, Clent Anderson, and Fred Batignani loved to drink coffee and have been strong leaders for COM on construction projects around Florida for many years. Fred introduced COM to Pastor Timmy Dyke that week, who he has helped many times. Timmy is a bi-vocational Pastor and alumnus of BUF, who builds wheel chair ramps all over north Florida for a Non-Profit in Tallahassee. He directs volunteers who actually do the building. After Fred introduced me to him, he volunteered to help us for several days to get started. With a knowledgeable leader recruited, we began to beat the drum for volunteers at the Thursday potluck at the fair. Unfortunately, Fred broke his ankle just before the project so, he joined the prayer warriors for this event.

What a great group of North Florida COM's gathered at Graceville in March. We had 16 participants from both Northeast and Northwest Regions of COM. We began on Sunday afternoon with a Barbeque dinner for our kick off meeting. Jeff and Kay Mock provided the pulled pork, Caroline Beard brought two of her World Famous Hand Squeezed Key Lime Pies, and Peggy Carnley's banana pudding was wonderful and several of us filled out the balance of the meal. Ask me how I know about the Key Lime Pie and the Banana Pudding! :-)

Sean Cook, the Director of Mobilization (Missions) at Olive Baptist Church gave us an encouraging word about a recent mission trip he had taken and how God had used him to encourage younger people that had joined him on this foreign mission project as they were ministering to very poor widows from previous European Wars. After his word, we told him he was in training for COM.

We began each morning, with a devotion in the student center. What a sweet time to start the day as we prepared for work. Several evenings we gathered to play board games etc., after dinner. BUF provided lunch for everyone, and we were able to eat dinner at the regular student price. This meant the camper kitchens were not required to be as active as otherwise would be needed. The full hook up campsites worked well. Thanks to Clent Anderson for helping get them ready the week before our arrival.



We had two work teams. Mark Krueger lead the pressure washing and painting team, while Timmy lead the deck and ramp renovation teams. We were tasked with five steel storm shelters to clean and paint the outside. Our group went inside and swept, cleaned and washed the linens stored inside also. They also pressure wash several hundred feet of side walk. This was areas we did not get done in 2024.

The deck group finished removing the flooring and benches from the dock. Then began bracing up several of the horizontal stringers, before laying down a new 2x6 floor for the entire dock and walk up ramp. The main deck/dock is approximately 40' x 40'. A wood ramp to the second floor of the administration building needed to be finished flooring. The maintenance staff (2 men for 90 buildings) had done the first twenty feet but the balance really needed attention. We also got that done. So that heavy items could again be brought to the main floor (second) of the Administration building safely.

Everywhere we were on campus the students and staff thanked us for what we were doing to improve their facility. The dock again is a sig-



nificant part of their social gatherings for the student life!

The album of pictures was posted on the Region 2 Campers of Mission Facebook page-"Media - Albums". For security reasons it is an invited page. Any current member of the page that you are friends with can invite you to join. See if you can find Charles Chambliss in a picture! Let me know if you find Charles.

Thanks to all that had any part of the project, from the prayers from our prayer warrior team to those that cooked food and all that ran a pressure washer, paint roller, and a screw gun. Those that can no longer make a physical contribution make an important support through your prayers. It takes all of us to get the Campers on Mission work done.

See you at the State Rally in October!  
Crawford & Elizabeth Odom

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# Fall Rally

**Get ready for our Florida fall rally.**

**DATES: October 30-November 1, 2025**

**LOCATION: Perry KOA Holiday**

**3641 S. Byron Butler Pkwy**

**Perry, Florida 32348**

For those of you going to the North Florida Fair, this is only 56 miles from the fairgrounds and you will be able to go directly from the rally to the fair if you wish.

**Details coming soon**

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# From your State Chaplain

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## Keep The Faith

Greetings my COM brothers & sisters!

It's my honor to share the Word with you wonderful saints of Jesus.

Where are you, traveler? Perhaps you're facing a disruptive moment in your life, one you never could have anticipated, and we all have had those experiences. It may of been death, financial disaster, divorce, physical or mental sickness, or the heartbreak of seeing a fellow traveler wander away from the path. Maybe the bend in your road is something so disappointing and devastating that you can hardly bear to acknowledge it. You could be standing by the side of your path, so overcome by pain that you believe you can't move on.

Please remember this:

Your crisis is IMPORTANT TO GOD! Whatever the struggle or setback we may face is intended to empower and purify you. Your situation is IMPORTANT TO GOD because He is using it to make you a more valuable servant in His Kingdom. 'The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.' - Psalm 34:18. ' You have taken account of my miseries; Put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?' - Psalm 56:8. Also, David wrote in the midst of his troubles, "This I know, God is for me" - Psalm 56:9.

Jesus said in John 11:33-35, When Jesus saw her weeping , and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, Jesus was DEEPLY MOVED IN HIS SPIRIT AND GREATLY TROUBLED. And He said, " Where have you laid him?" They said to Jesus , "Lord, come and see." JESUS WEPT. In First Peter 5:7, ' casting all your cares on God, because He cares about you"!

In Conclusion:

The Words from Jesus, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened , and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find REST FOR YOUR SOULS" - Matthew 11:28-30.

Psalm 30:5, ...." Weeping may last through a night , but the morning brings joy!" God loves you & I ! And I love what Titus 2:13, says,' WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE BLESSED HOPE - THE APPEARING OF THE GLORY OF OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST"!!!! Keep The Faith my friends !

Charles Carnley  
850-525-6400



# Welcome New Members

We have had several new members since the last newsletter in January. Let's welcome them.

- ♦ Dan and Kathy Baker live in Alabama but work in Florida so joined with us this year.
- ♦ Mike and Vicky Ridley live in Crystal River. They worked with us in Lake Wales.
- ♦ Karl and Lori Asen hail from Illinois. They spent the winter here in Florida working.
- ♦ Dan and Cindy Stanton live in St Petersburg. He is our own Dee Krueger's brother.
- ♦ Dennis and Patti Echols live in Pensacola and are our newest members.

## Missions Conferences

Does your church have a missions conference yearly? If so, we would like to know about it. We would love to get you materials so you could represent COM. If you won't be in town to represent COM, maybe we can get someone else to go in your place. If you need help, we can look for someone who would be willing to assist you.



Lake Swan  
Camp



Lake Placid  
Camp &  
Conference  
Center



From this...

to this.