Florida Conference Embraces Legacy of Bill Farmer
On August 29, Principal Bill Farmer, a much loved member of the Florida Conference team, passed to his rest. Having spent the last 28 years at Walker Memorial Academy in Avon Park, Farmer was the longest standing principal on our staff. The memorial service that celebrated his life revealed vibrant examples of the wisdom, kindness, humor, energy, vision, and love that affected the lives of countless individuals.

In examining the positive impact Mr. Farmer's life had on students, teachers, parents, and all those he met, the Florida Conference Office of Education has decided to create “The Farmer Series” as a training tool for our principals.

“The fact that he was so loved by so many people in all walks of life makes him an incredible example for all of us,” states Frank Runnels, Vice President for Education. “There is so much we can learn from this humble man. He knew how to listen, he knew how to sift through all the trivia and get to what is really important. . . bottom line . . . he knew how to care.”

“The Farmer Series” will present actual anecdotes from Mr. Farmer's life, followed by discussion of the traits of character evidenced. We appreciate the generosity of Mrs. Walda Farmer in making the stories shared at his memorial service available to us for this purpose.

Schools Blessed With New Equipment

Florida Conference schools are discovering that money does not have to be an obstacle when it comes to sprucing up their campuses!

Keith Nelson, principal of New Port Richey Adventist School, reports finding a great deal on furniture at a warehouse in Tampa. “I was searching for a used reception desk for our front lobby, when I initially found a deal for around five hundred dollars. When I visited the location and informed the owner that I was a private school administrator, he escorted me to a treasure trove of school furniture. For a whopping total of fifty dollars, I drove off with a beautiful reception desk, book case, six additional bookshelves, 15 silk plants, two hardwood office desks, and an eight by five foot conference table!”
About one hundred miles to the east, another school began the year with some exciting news. Risobel Torres, PreK/K teacher at Osceola Adventist Christian Academy, has a family member who put the school’s name on a list for potential donation sites for playground equipment. They were then referred to the University of Central Florida Behavioral Health in Orlando.

“I contacted David Beardsley, the CEO of the hospital, and we were the blessed recipients,” says Dr. Michael Cookenmaster, school principal. “The set originally cost $20,000, but the hospital decided to install something else. All we had to do was dismantle and transport the equipment, then reassemble everything at our school!”

Such stories are not unusual. God is truly blessing our schools in the Florida Conference.

New Math Intervention Program at FLA

Kami Borhon, Forest Lake Academy teacher and doctoral student at the University of Central Florida, has recently designed a program that is helping FLA students now and will contribute to the success of students in many other schools in the future.

“Math Intervention Program, or MIP, is a remedial math course which I have designed for incoming freshmen who are not prepared for Algebra I,” states Mr. Borhon, who is currently teaching a pilot class. “MIP is designed as a student-centered learning environment empowering students to get directly involved in their own learning.”

The five modules are based on the flipped classroom and include differentiated instructional strategies according to learning style. The final grade for the
course is designed as **Pass** or **Fail** based on the student’s score on the ACT Aspire test at the end of the semester. Quizzes and tests are used as diagnostic tools to help the teacher and students assess mastery of concepts.

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**Adventist School Opens in Tallahassee**

August 19 was a high day in Tallahassee for this community that has waited almost ten years to see an Adventist school open its doors again. After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the school began session for the first time since 2005.

A dream realized by the cooperative efforts of three Adventist churches in our state’s capital, Tallahassee Adventist Christian Academy represents what can be done when leaders work together for the best interests of children. Says Pastor Scott Cronin of Tallahassee First Seventh-day Adventist Church, "I feel beyond excited--not only because the school has been planted, but because of what it means to our community and the unity between our churches. God has created something great!"

With an enrollment of 15 students, Tallahassee Adventist Christian Academy is staffed by lower-grades teacher Lynn Washington, who previously served at the school for six years, and principal/upper-grades teacher, Tasha Pizarro, who comes to us from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

"For so many years it has been a burden on our hearts, knowing that we had no school presence in Tallahassee," says Frank Runnels, Vice President for Education. "To finally have a school located in the state's capital is a wonderful manifestation of God’s working on our behalf. We look forward to mighty things in this community."
Associate Superintendent Takes Sabbatical

Dr. Sandra Doran, who has served the Florida Conference since July 2002, will be taking a well-deserved two month sabbatical for the months of October and November, enjoying a new policy that was recently put into place for our superintendents.

“I look forward to this opportunity to do some writing, spend time at home with my grandchildren, and cavort in the leaves of my beloved New England,” she says. During her absence, questions and concerns can be addressed to other members of the Education team.

Ben Roy Brings Science Fun to Florida

Ben Roy, everybody’s favorite science guy, would love to put on a show for your school during his Florida visit from January 19-28, 2015. Feel free to call Ben to schedule a science show for your school at 423-596-0730. Check out his website for information and prices, www.gosciencezone.com. He is willing to work with schools who are unable to pay the full price.