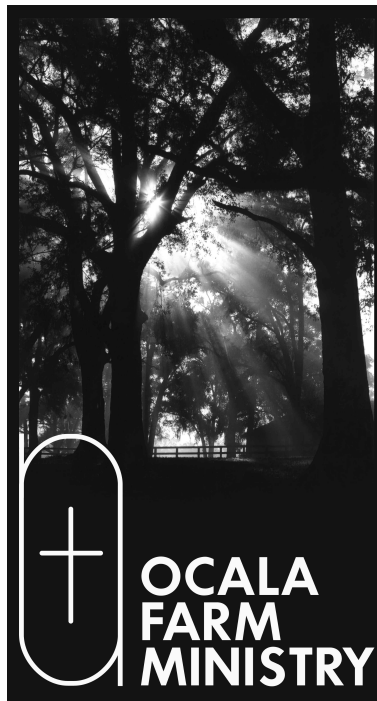


*Dear Friends of
Ocala Farm Ministry,*

We are aware that you join us in the frustration caused by this never ending permitting process for our community center, but I want to assure you that there is light at the end of the tunnel. It seems as if we have been taking one step forward and two steps sideways on this project and the frustration has been almost overwhelming. However, one by one we are overcoming these obstacles and once construction begins our community center should be up and functional within six months.

This is where we stand as of the 16th of August: we own 7.68 acres of land outright on NW 110th Avenue. Zoning was changed to permit us to build our community center. A regulation size soccer field has been leveled, graded, irrigated and sprigged (thanks to Florida Farm Managers) and our Ocala Farm Ministry Soccer League will be playing on it in early September! Building and site plans have been drawn up and submitted to the county. After countless delays, we have now jumped through 16 of 18 hoops for the building permit and have approval from all departments except the DOT, which requires a traffic study on NW 110th to determine whether a turn lane is required and the DOE, for a "Bugs and Bunnies" study to make sure we have no endangered species on the property. Both of these studies have been ordered and are underway. Once we have the results submitted to the county we should have approval within 30 days, God willing. Community Bank has tentatively approved our loan and we have our down payment in hand. The project has been reopened for bids as so much time has



elapsed since the original bids were made and market conditions have changed radically. This experience has certainly been a learning curve for all of us; the main lesson being that one small word, Commercial, rather than Agricultural, makes a world of difference in building restrictions and requirements. Take our advice, stay on the farm!

We would also like to congratulate Luis Gutierrez and Caden Munro Parmalee on winning the CF Foundation Steps Award from CFCC. This is given to students who have not only maintained a high grade point average, but also demonstrate good

citizenship skills among their peers and teachers. Both of these boys have played in our soccer league and helped with the Nativity Play and the Call to the Post fundraisers since the beginning and we at the Ocala Farm Ministry are all very proud of their accomplishments.

Chaplain Bob has been a very busy man this year and has visited over 100 farms and offered assistance to countless people in need, whether it be spiritual, physical or financial. He continues to hold church services every Sunday at OBS and has presided over so many weddings and funerals that he's worn out his dress shoes. You'll pass him on the road always with a cell phone to his ear on his way to put out the latest fire. The economy has hurt all of us and sadly it seems that the most vulnerable have been hit the hardest. It is only with the support of all Florida horsemen that the Ocala Farm Ministry can continue to serve the horse community. Have faith, before long we shall all be toasting the grand opening of our community center, built by the people and for the people who make up the Ocala horse farm community. ■



*If you have any questions or would like to get involved,
please do not hesitate to call Chaplain Bob @ (352) 239-0420*