

**SALÓN DE ASAMBLEAS
DE LOS TESTIGOS DE JEHOVÁ**
West Palm Beach, Florida



**SALÓN DE ASAMBLEAS
DE WEST PALM BEACH**



**“Me alegré cuando me dijeron
‘Vamos a la casa de Jehová’”
(Salmo 122:1).**

15-17 de agosto de 2025

Sección 1: Comienza la construcción del auditorio

La construcción del **Auditorio de West Palm Beach** (como se conocía en aquel entonces) comenzó en septiembre de 1965. Aunque arrancó con un presupuesto modesto, terminó costando 4 millones de dólares, ¡casi tres veces más de lo previsto!

El diseño peculiar del techo en forma de cúpula representó en su momento un gran reto para los arquitectos, ingenieros y funcionarios de la ciudad.



***Maqueta conceptual
del auditorio***



Comienzo de la estructura.



Columna de apoyo para la cúpula



Estructura de refuerzo para el concreto.



El concreto le da forma al diseño



El agua del foso que rodeaba el auditorio se utilizó en la construcción

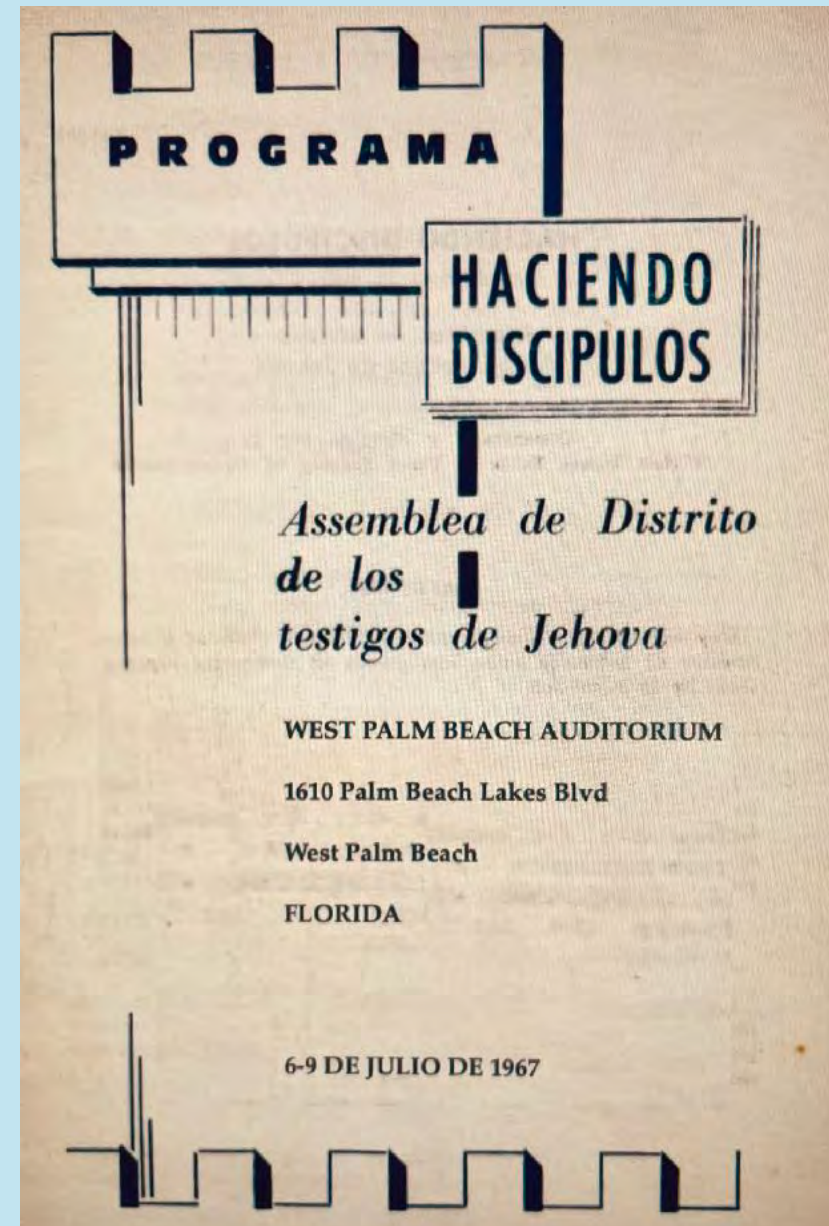


El auditorio comenzó a usarse en 1967

Sección 2: Cambios de último momento para nuestra asamblea

Los Testigos de Jehová fuimos los primeros en contratar el uso del auditorio de West Palm Beach, del 6 al 9 de julio de 1967.

Como el domo del auditorio presentaba problemas que dificultaban su uso, tuvimos que alquilar el West Palm Beach Kennel Club con tan solo una semana de aviso.



Programa de la asamblea de distrito de 1967

E.W. Hooper, primer administrador del auditorio, anuncia el evento inaugural. Se esperan 6.500 asistentes para la asamblea "Haciendo discípulos".



Tarjeta de identificación de la asamblea

Jehovah's Witnesses Slate Convention Kick-Off Meet

LAKE WORTH —More than 400 persons are expected for an organizational "kick-off" meeting at 7:30 tonight at the Lake Worth Civic Center to complete plans for a four-day district convention of Jehovah's Witnesses, July 6-9.

E. W. Hooper, convention manager said 6,500 delegates from South and Central Florida and numerous other states, are expected to attend morning, afternoon and evening sessions at the new West Palm Beach Auditorium. The convention will be

the first event in the new multi-million dollar facility.

Officials with the West Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce said it will be the largest convention in the history of the city.

"This convention is without parallel," said Pete Webb, chamber membership department. "The new auditorium has opened the door for large conventions in West Palm Beach," he said, "now the question is where do we put them?"

"We received nearly 400 letters seeking accommodations before the convention headquarters opened," said Willis E. Stemen, rooming director from Tampa.

Motels on North Broadway report they're booked solid and some have had the "no vacancy" sign out for July 6-9 for several weeks. This area of motels is nearest to the new convention center.

Hooper said more than 20 separate departments will be organized at tonight's meeting in Lake Worth. They include administration, public address, parking, cafeteria, refreshments, information, travel, rooming and first aid. "We'll also organize attendants for each department," he said.

John L. Patrick, formerly of West Palm Beach, is secretary-treasurer; Henry A. Cantwell, director of volunteer services; G. L. Hewitt, West Palm Beach circuit supervisor, assistant; and David Bowmas, cafeteria and refreshments.

George Morrison, West Palm Beach minister and overseer of the five local congregations, and Robert L. Duling, representing the two Lake Worth congregations, are helping Hooper coordinate activities for the convention.

A similar meeting is scheduled in Orlando, August 17-20.

Witnesses Change Site Of Convention

The Watchtower Convention announced Friday that the Jehovah's Witnesses four-day district convention, July 6-9, will be conducted at the Palm Beach Kennel Club.

Some 6,500 delegates from Florida and 26 other states will gather at the convention, it was announced.

The convention had originally been scheduled to be conducted in the City Auditorium. "We delayed a final decision until the last possible moment," E. W. Hooper, convention manager said. "But the situation is hopeless so we're proceeding with other plans."

The often-delayed opening of the auditorium has been pushed back to early September.

Along with the main convention at the Kennel Club, a Spanish-language convention will be conducted at the Musicarnival on Military Trail. Hooper said delegates would come from such countries as Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Bahamas, and Jamaica.

"We can't turn back at this late date," Hooper said, in reference to the change in the location of the convention. "People have made their reservations, arranged vacations and made genuine sacrifices to attend."

He said convention organizers would have to "adjust to the situation by working extra hard to prepare the Kennel Club and the Musicarnival."

One major problem at the Kennel Club will be mosquitoes. Hooper said a special fogging operation will be conducted to cut down on the number of bites.

Sección 3: Le ponen el apodo “El Tipi con Goteras”

Irónicamente, el mismo techo que lo distingue de otros edificios terminó siendo su mayor inconveniente. Las lluvias provocaron filtraciones constantes que dañaban los asientos y otras estructuras internas del auditorio.

Como consecuencia, se ganó el apodo “The Leaky Teepee” (“El Tipi con Goteras”), en alusión a los tipis, o tiendas, utilizadas por los indígenas nómadas de este país.



La lluvia sobre la cúpula

Leaky Teepee May Bring Umbrellas

Editor:

I have just studied the Post-Times view of the new auditorium with its psychedelic roof.

It has been interesting to me to keep up with the project, and several months ago when noting the type of roof which was to be installed, I read the description to my wife and in a few seconds a knowing expression appeared on her face as we shook our heads in unison. We

uttered our prediction in chorus but not loud enough. I'm sure, to be heard beyond the walls of our humble home.

How could such an architecturally unschooled man and wife be so accurate in their prediction that within a month after such a roof was "sprayed" on the auditorium men would be up there patching it with black tar in a multitude of weird patterns?

Its simple . . . experience! We happen to be members of a church in which we sat for five years under a similar roof, perhaps not as large but still a roof worth in excess of \$25,000.

We, along with several hundred others, watched and heard this modern technique straight out of the laboratory crack, peel, bubble and slip for five years. We heard report after report from the maintenance committee telling of its trials with the leaky roof until no meeting was complete unless the "leaky roof" was discussed.

You'll be happy to hear, however, that we finally solved our problem after years of phone calls, letters and talks of law suits.

Our solution? We nailed the same kind of shingles to our quarter million dollar building which my grandfather put on his house 60 years ago. He happened to be an observant carpenter (foreign-born) who apparently asked a few questions before he chose his materials.

Advice is cheap. I know but

I hope the city commission doesn't accept the roof until they have talked to a few people.

I think the auditorium is great. I have visited the site several times and I drive past it twice a day. I plan to bring my family there often.

Just in case you decide not to check out what I have said now, you may contact us at one of the auditorium's opening events. You'll be able to pick us out of the crowd, I'm sure. We'll be the family with our tickets in one hand and umbrellas in the other!

JOHN R. MEYER
West Palm Beach

The Palm Beach Post,
marzo de 1967



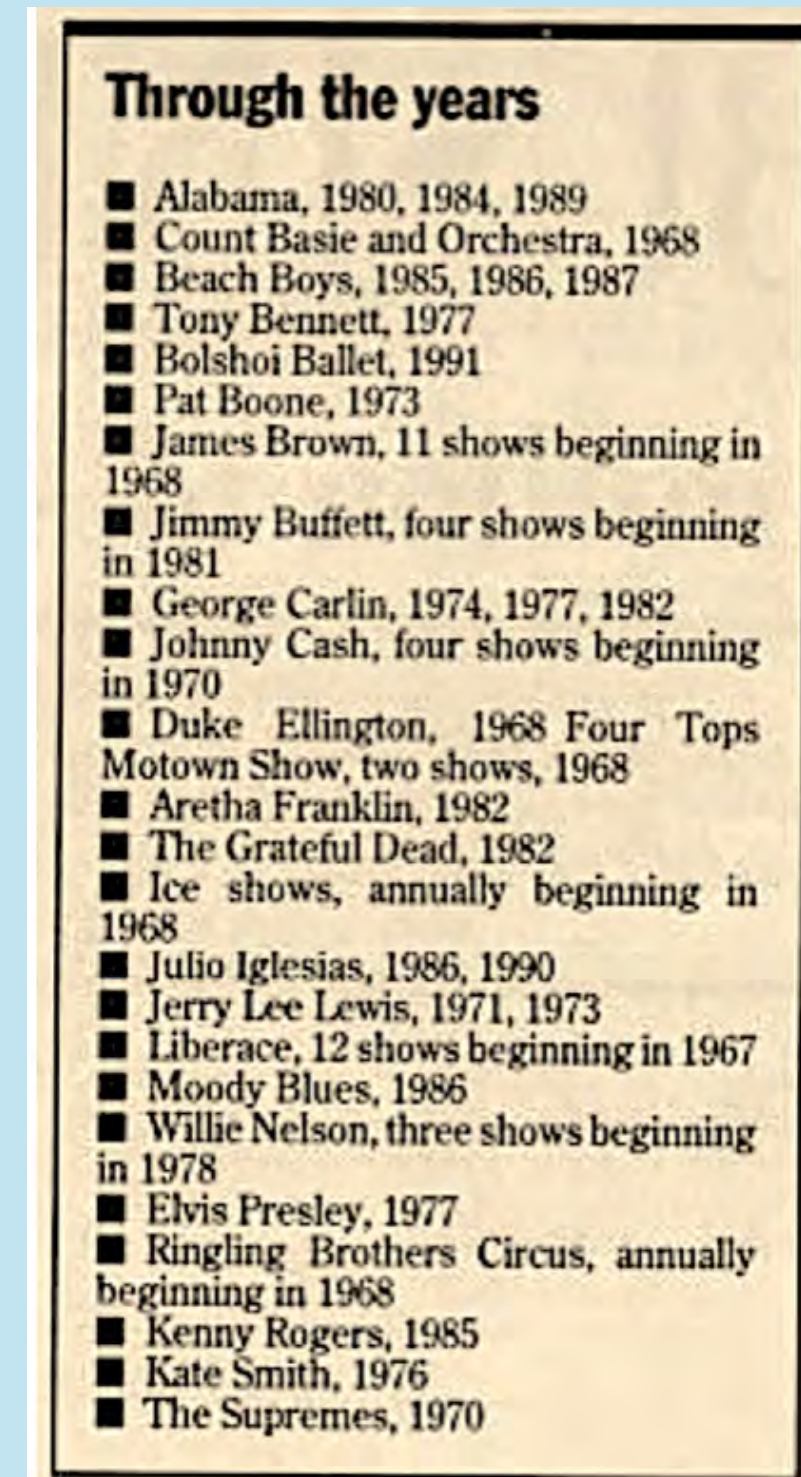
Los tipis de los indigenas americanos

Sección 4: Los que han usado el Auditorio de West Palm Beach de 1967 a 1998

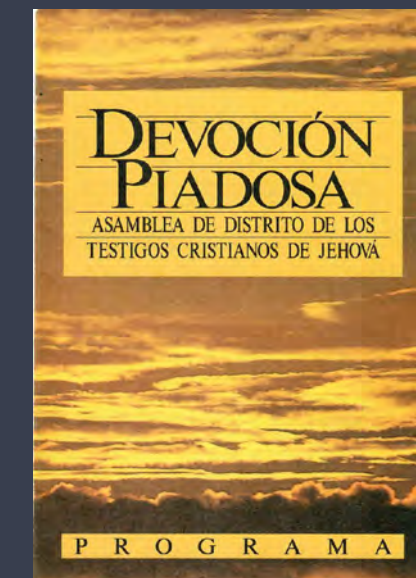
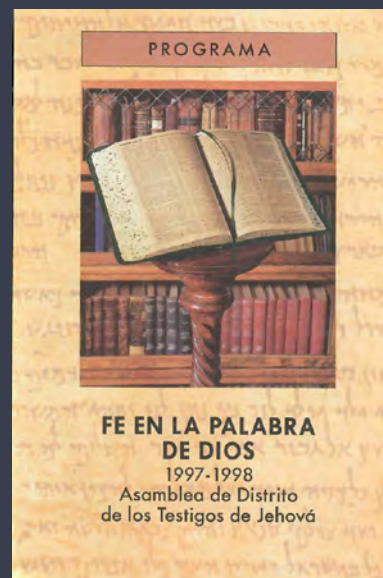
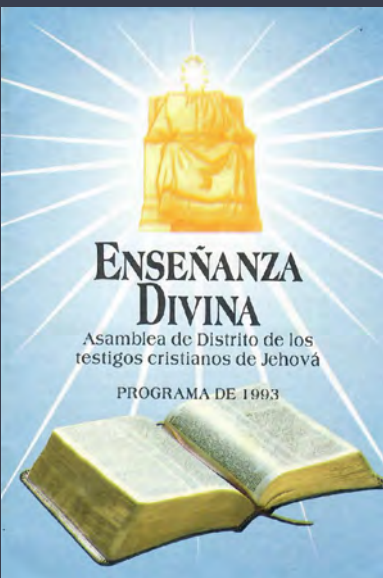
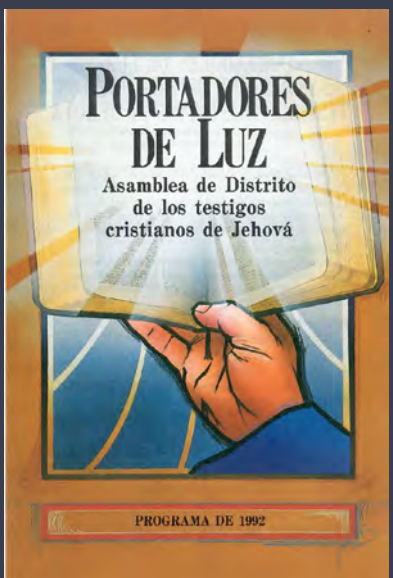
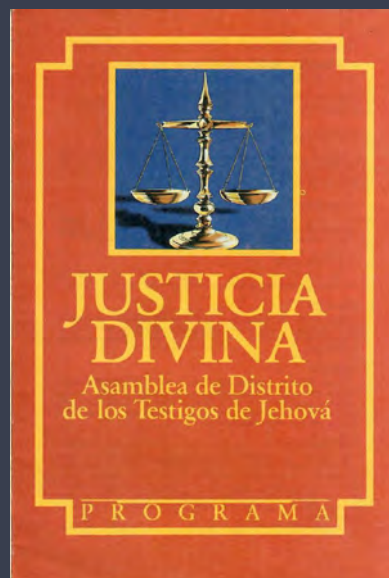
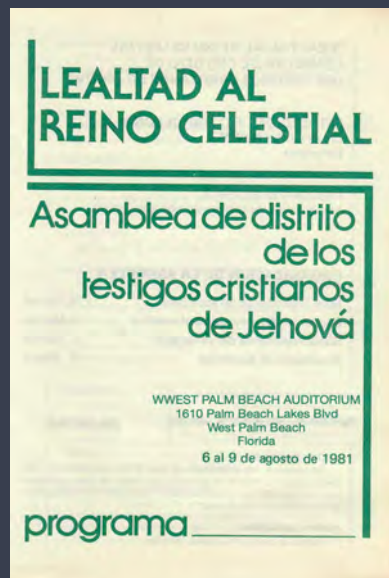
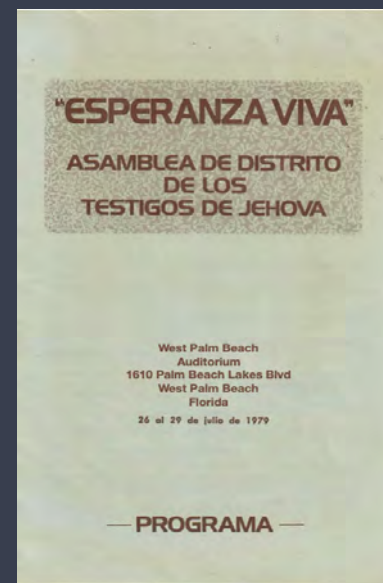
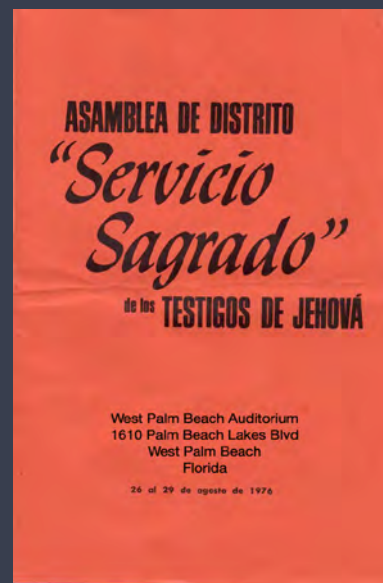
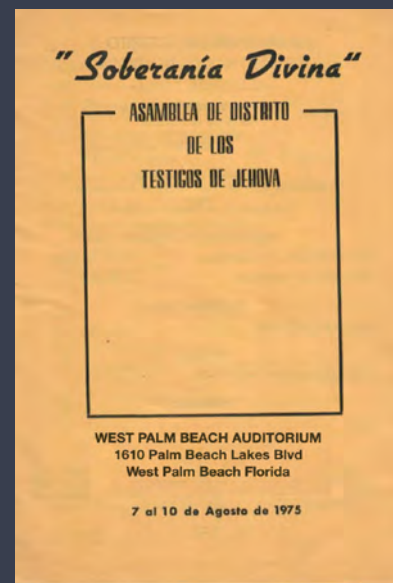
A lo largo de los años, el Auditorio de West Palm Beach se ha usado para diversos eventos, como se puede apreciar en la reseña de periódico.

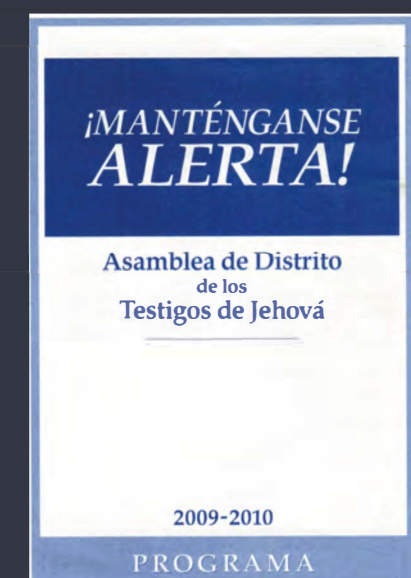
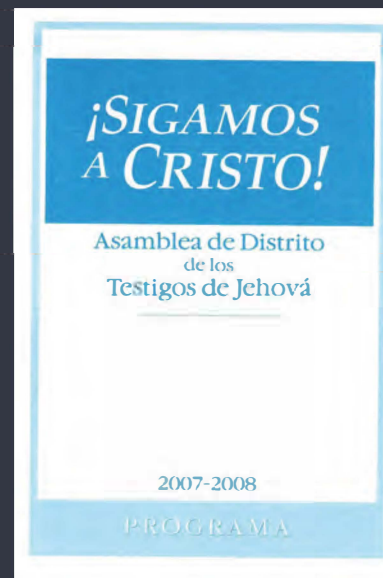
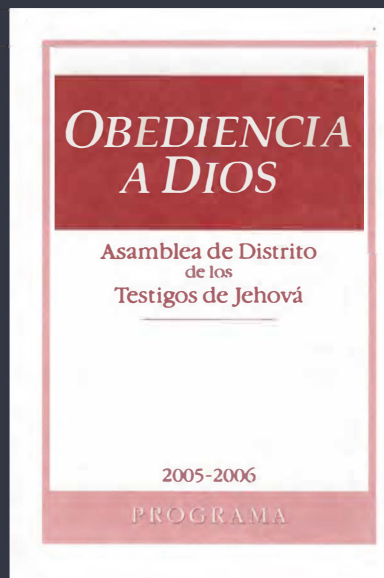
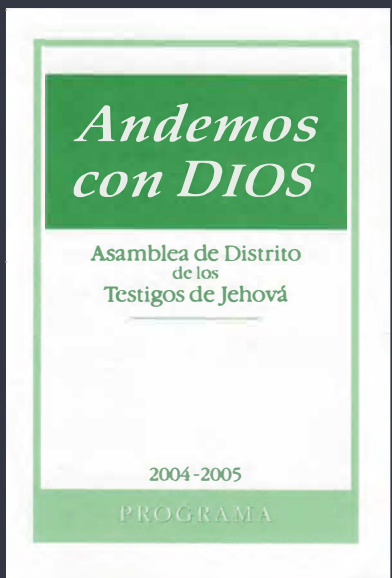
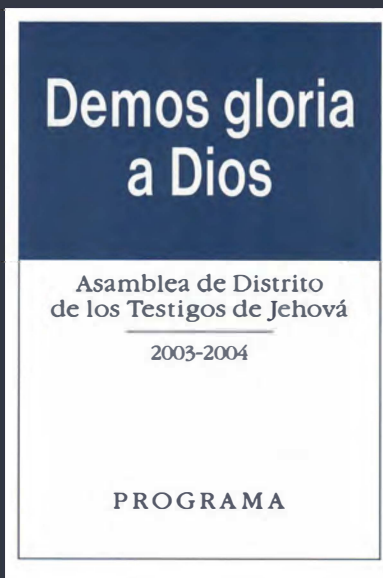
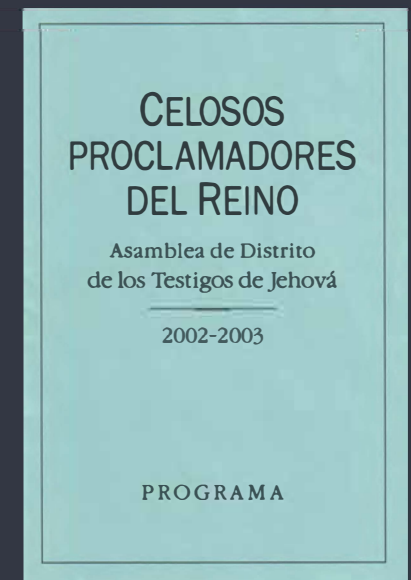
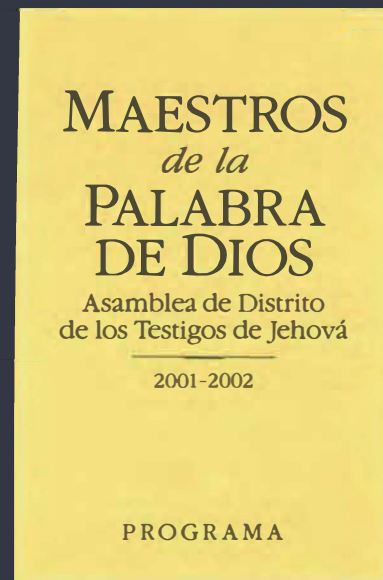
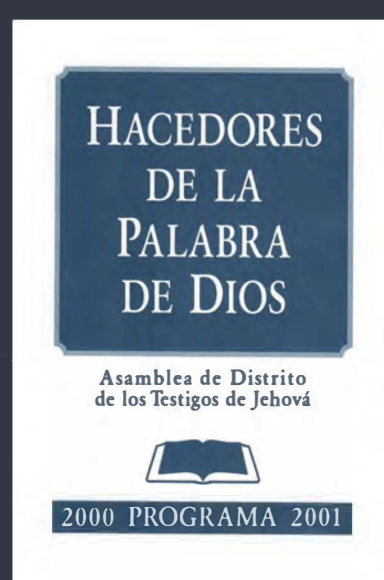
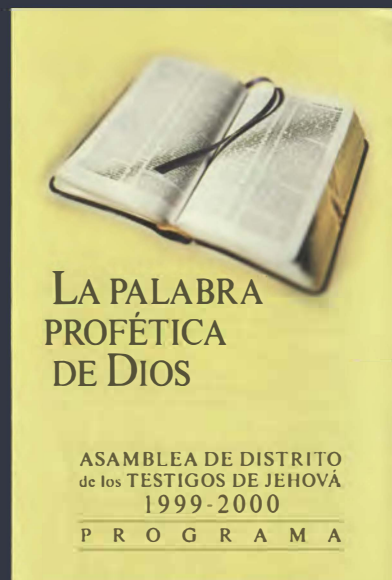
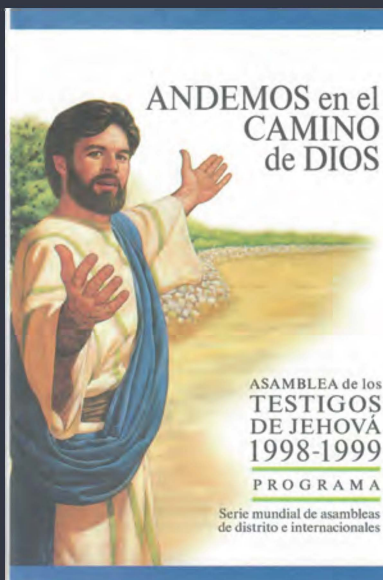
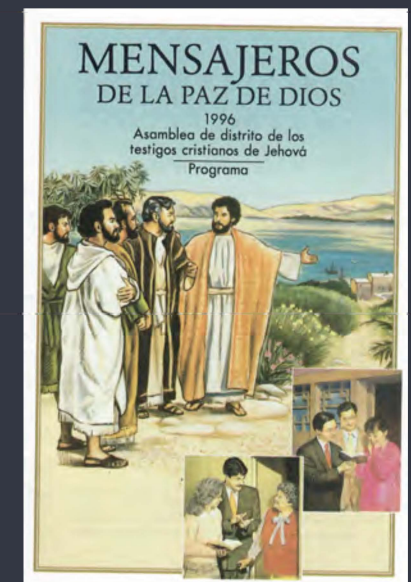
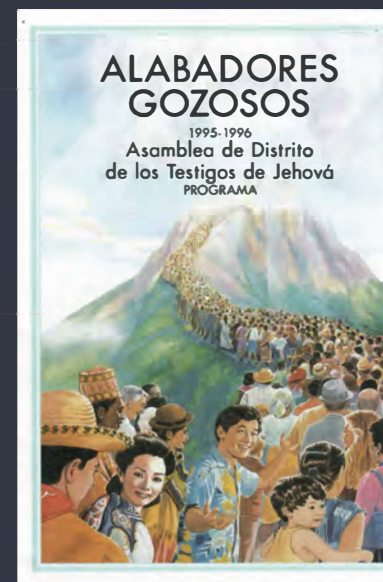
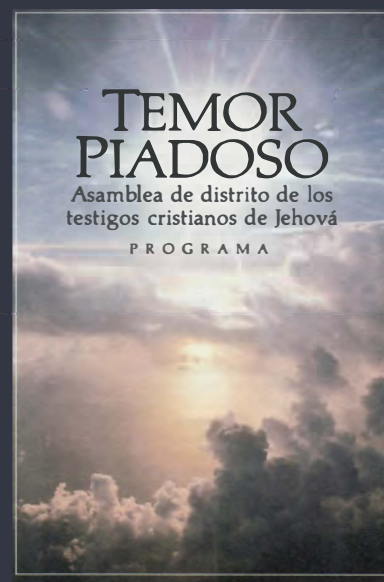
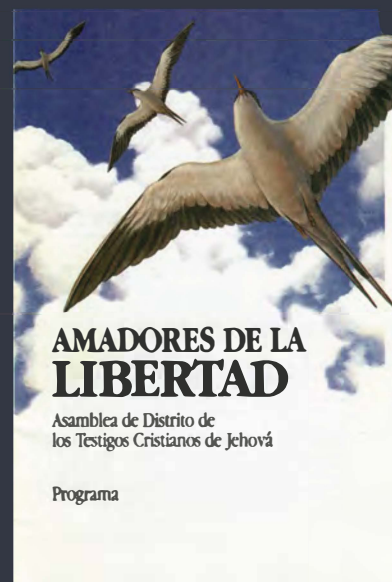
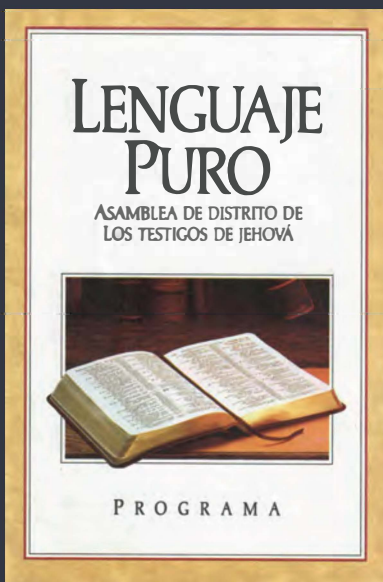
Los testigos de Jehová celebramos muchas asambleas ahí entre 1975 y 1997 hasta que lo compramos en 1998.

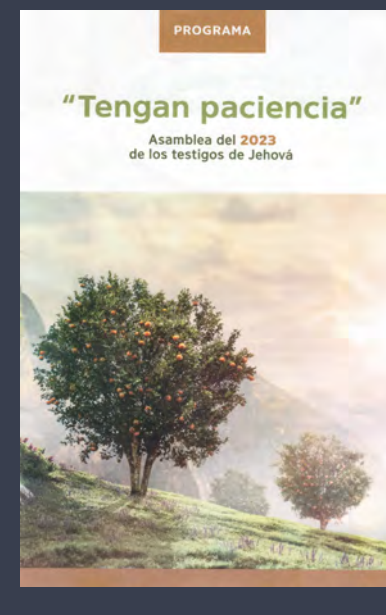
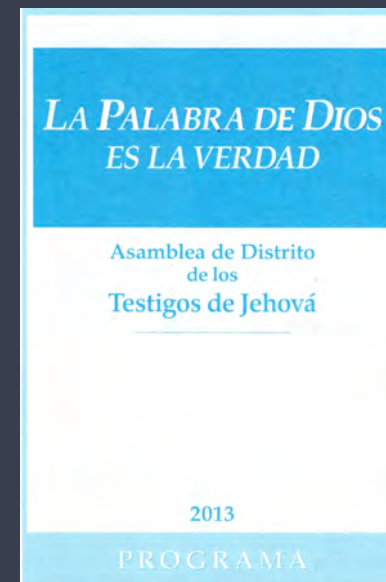
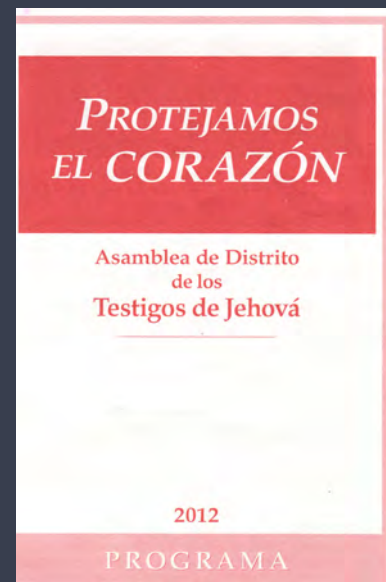
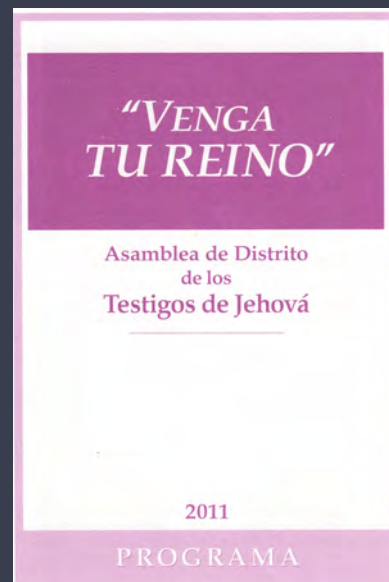
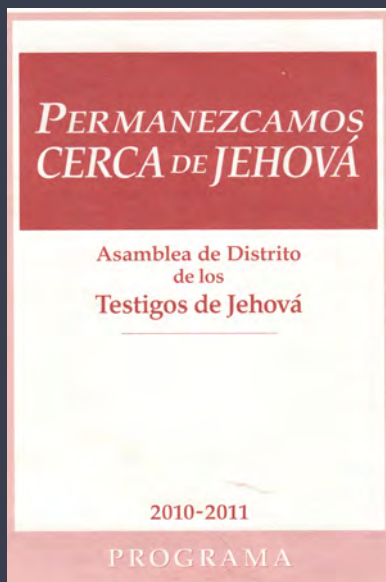
Écheles un vistazo a los programas de estas asambleas. ¿Recuerda alguna de ellas?



Otros que pasaron por el Auditorio de West Palm Beach entre 1967 y 1998



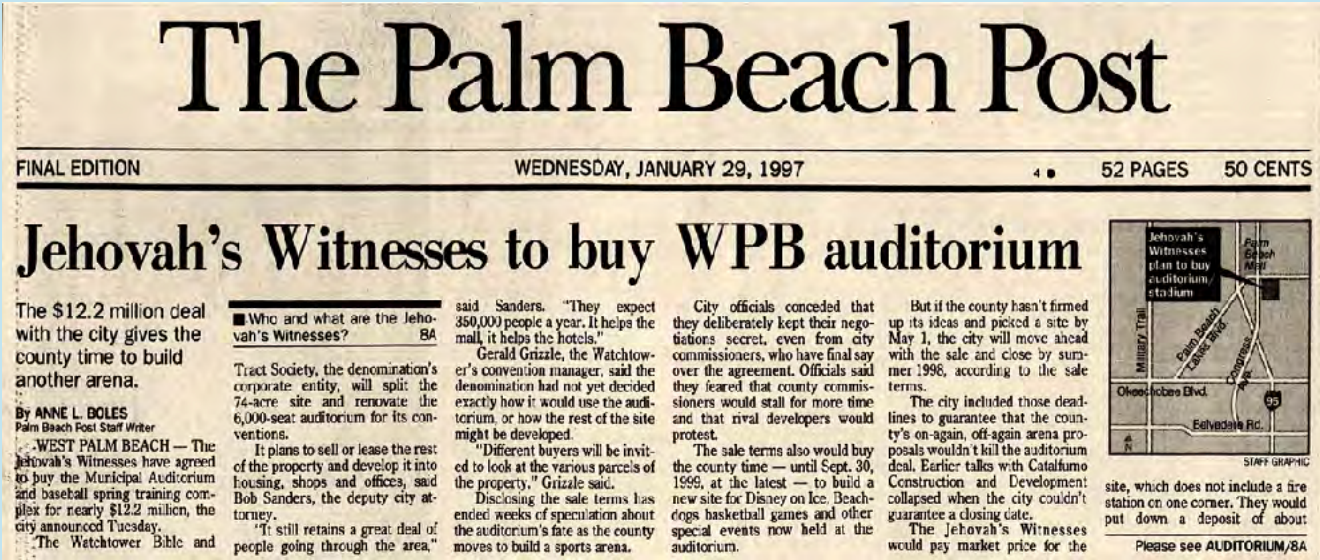




Sección 5: Jehová bendice la compra del auditorio

La compra incluyó el auditorio con 74 acres (30 hectáreas) de terreno. Después, pudimos dividir la propiedad y vender 48 acres (19,4 hectáreas) del terreno original. Con esta venta no solo se recuperó el costo de la compra inicial, ¡sino que se logró una ganancia!

Sin duda, Jehová bendijo la compra de este Salón de Asambleas.



Titular: Los testigos de Jehová comprarán el Auditorio de West Palm Beach

Ruling: Residents can vote on auditorium

The Jehovah's Witnesses could pull out of the \$12.5 million deal, and West Palm Beach doesn't know when it could schedule a vote.

By Marcia Gelbart
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

WEST PALM BEACH — In a defeat for Mayor Nancy Graham, an appeals court Wednesday ruled that residents have the right to vote on the city's \$12.5 million sale of the Municipal Auditorium to the Jehovah's Witnesses.

The 4th District Court of Appeal ruling reverses a November lower court decision that canceled a Dec. 16 referendum, saying it would be illegal.

✓ 1997 abortion law unconstitutional, 4th District Court of Appeal says 5A

"What a surprise," said Gregory Olds, the Witnesses' attorney. The Witnesses, as well as three taxpayers who defended the purchase in court with them, have 15 days to request another hearing before the appeals court. They also may appeal to the state's Supreme Court or pull out of the deal altogether. No decision has been made, Olds said.

An exuberant Richard Giorgio, consultant to the Community Coalition for a Better Auditorium Deal, said, "The Witnesses took a gamble in signing the contract" to buy the 72-acre tract.

The coalition in August had gathered enough signatures to force commissioners to schedule a vote. "They should have known from the very beginning that the sale was subject to referendum," Giorgio said.

The ruling comes three weeks before the March 10 election, but that does not allow enough time to get the sale onto the ballot, said Theresa LePore, Palm Beach County's supervisor of elections.

City officials hadn't determined late Wednesday when a referendum could be scheduled. But Giorgio — a paid political consultant to Graham's chief rival and two city commission challengers — said the ruling might affect the outcome of commission races.

And, though Graham said she still believes the sale "was a fair business deal," she's uncertain how a referendum would fare.

"The people who are opposed to the sale are the only ones who go out and vote, so you may have one

Voters back arena sale



Mayor Nancy Graham greets backers of the auditorium sale to the Jehovah's Witnesses at a victory party at Rooney's Pub on Clematis Street.

Narrow victory also seen as vote for Graham

By Marcia Gelbart
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

WEST PALM BEACH — Residents put their faith in Mayor Nancy Graham Tuesday, but narrowly, by backing her decision to sell Municipal Auditorium and Stadium to the Jehovah's Witnesses.

Supporters of the \$12.5 million sale edged out opponents, 52 percent to 48 percent.

"It's an important victory," said

Graham. The campaign trailed significantly in polls six weeks ago, she said. "But, I recognize it's an emotional and nostalgic issue."

Moreover, she said closing the 31-year-old auditorium will help force the county to move more quickly toward a decision on financing a replacement.

Among those favoring the deal were voters who live in the western district of Commissioner Al Zucaro,

ELECTION RESULTS

Should the sale of Municipal Auditorium be revoked?

Yes	3,626	48.2%
No	3,398	51.8%

who cast the sole vote against it in July. Phone banks run by the cam-

paign group backing Graham made a heavy push Tuesday in that area, which includes the Riverwalk and Land of the Presidents communities.

The Community Coalition for a Better Auditorium, backed by Zucaro, won in two of the five commission districts. They drew heavily from the neighborhoods most al-

House for REFERENDUM/14A

A deal they can refuse

West Palm Beach does not have a competing offer for the city's auditorium and surrounding land. The city has a letter of intent, but the terms are unrealistic, the potential buyer is uninformed and the timing is suspicious.

It all looks like an attempt to influence a possible Dec. 16 referendum that could kill the \$12.5 million sale to the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Opponents, such as City Commissioner Al Zucaro, have suggested that the letter of intent shows the city could do better, so the referendum should pass. If Mr. Zucaro believes that after reading the proposal, it's one more reason why the sale to the Jehovah's Witnesses should go through.

Last month, shopping center investor John Politis sent his letter to the city, offering \$10 million for 44 acres and an option on the 28 acres where the auditorium sits. He said he approached the Jehovah's Witnesses, but they told him they had offers of \$13.6 million. The Watchtower intends to retain and renovate the auditorium for conventions and sell the other property to developers. Mr. Politis says he wants in only if the Jehovah's deal falls through.

His proposal, however, contains little information beyond his plan to build two office towers, a 300,000-square-foot shopping complex and 450 apartments. The proposal also has serious flaws. It asks that the project be excluded from rules limiting development on the property so roads don't get overloaded. "From my experience," Mr. Politis says, "that's a negotiating point." Except that it isn't; the state has set those limits. The Jehovah's agreed to abide by the regulations.

Also, Mr. Politis wants West Palm Beach to keep the auditorium open for at least four years. Then, "for a pur-

A flawed letter of intent does not show that West Palm Beach could do better than the Jehovah's auditorium deal.

chase price to be negotiated" he would tear down the auditorium and "build a new multi-purpose state of the art auditorium, at such time, as the City and County are ready." Except that the city has voted to close the auditorium on June 8, and there's no sign the county will ever be ready.

Mr. Politis says that arena could have 15,000-20,000 seats and get new bookings "by getting concerts." Asked about Coral Sky Amphitheatre, which already hosts concerts that large, he said, "I'm not familiar with Coral Sky."

Indeed, for all of Mr. Politis' sudden interest in West Palm Beach, he hasn't done a Florida project in seven years. The address of his company's "headquarters" is his house on a cul-de-sac in suburban Boca Raton; a note on the door advises that deliveries can be dropped off two houses away. He says he spends three weeks of each month at his "satellite" office near Nashville.

Most of Mr. Politis' projects have been strip shopping centers anchored by supermarkets or discount department stores. None approaches the size of the auditorium deal. Rather than accede to the city's wishes for the area, Mr. Politis wants to set his own rules.

With luck, a Palm Beach County circuit judge will decide next week that the referendum is invalid because it can't apply to a contract. If he doesn't, voters should not believe that this proposal represents a serious alternative to the Jehovah's deal.

La compra del Auditorio de West Palm Beach fue una excelente inversión para los Testigos de Jehová. Sin embargo, la venta del auditorio fue sometida a votación entre los residentes de West Palm Beach. Aunque algunos vecinos se opusieron a la venta, la mayoría aprobó la decisión.

Price more than right

Of the many reasons why West Palm Beach voters should uphold last July's decision to sell the city's auditorium, the easiest to explain is the price.

Under the deal, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society will buy the auditorium and the surrounding property, 72 acres in all, for \$12.5 million. The society, parent organization of the Jehovah's Witnesses, will renovate the auditorium for its regional meetings. The Jehovah's will sell the other 44.5 acres to commercial and residential developers. The society will pay to demolish West Palm Beach Municipal Stadium.

Critics say the city didn't drive a hard bargain. In fact, West Palm Beach hardly could have done better.

In 1994, one year after a major developer had expressed interest, an appraisal placed the value of the property at between \$9.6 million and \$11.3 million. Appraisers based the estimate on development of all 72 acres, with the range attributable to uncertainty over land use. Commercial zoning makes land more valuable.

In April 1996 and February 1997, two firms conducted new appraisals. Both times, one put the value at \$12.5 million, and the other placed it at \$12.55 million. (The city announced its intent to sell to the Jehovah's in January 1997.) At city officials' instructions, however, no appraisal included demoli-

THE AUDITORIUM SALE

Why it's a good deal

tion costs for the auditorium and stadium. Estimates ranged between \$3.75 million and about \$5 million. Normally, a seller would pay that cost.

Instead, West Palm Beach gets the \$12.5 million, the Jehovah's will pay to tear down the stadium and fix up the auditorium, and the city will get the property taxes from the businesses and homes to be built east and south of the auditorium. Opponents claim that the city could have sold the whole site to one developer and commanded a higher price, but the state has ruled that not all the land can be developed because roads couldn't handle the traffic. And by selling the whole site, West Palm Beach would have had to deduct demolition costs from the sale price.

West Palm Beach will use the \$12.5 million to build up reserves, fix parks and streets and build fire stations — unless voters make the mistake of voting down this good deal.

West Palm Beach will hold the referendum on the auditorium sale April 28. Because of the wording, a NO vote will uphold the sale.

City 'gave' Witnesses \$2.5 million

The Jehovah's Witnesses negotiated to buy the West Palm Beach Auditorium for meetings, seminars and conferences. The city's mayor and commissioners completed a transaction that, in the final analysis, shows that they "gave" the auditorium, 28 acres of land and approximately \$2.5 million to the Jehovah's Witnesses to take part of the land and sell it for enough to pay for the entire transaction.

The auditorium and the 28 acres was the intended purchase, but the city insisted on a sale of the entire property, agreeing to rezone parts of it for commercial use and high-density residential use. In the sale contract, city officials acknowledged that they knew the Witnesses would resell the parts that they didn't want to pay for the purchase.

What was the reason that the mayor was so anxious to complete this deal before the end of the city's fiscal year? Maybe an investigation of this entire deal, including the appraisals of the property, would make interesting reading. And why was this property not put up for bids?

Sign the petition calling for a referendum to let city residents vote on whether to complete the sale, and maybe these questions will be answered.

Sección 6: Comienza la remodelación del Salón de Asambleas

Ahora haremos un recuento de los trabajos de remodelación, estructura, estacionamiento, aire acondicionado y jardinería.

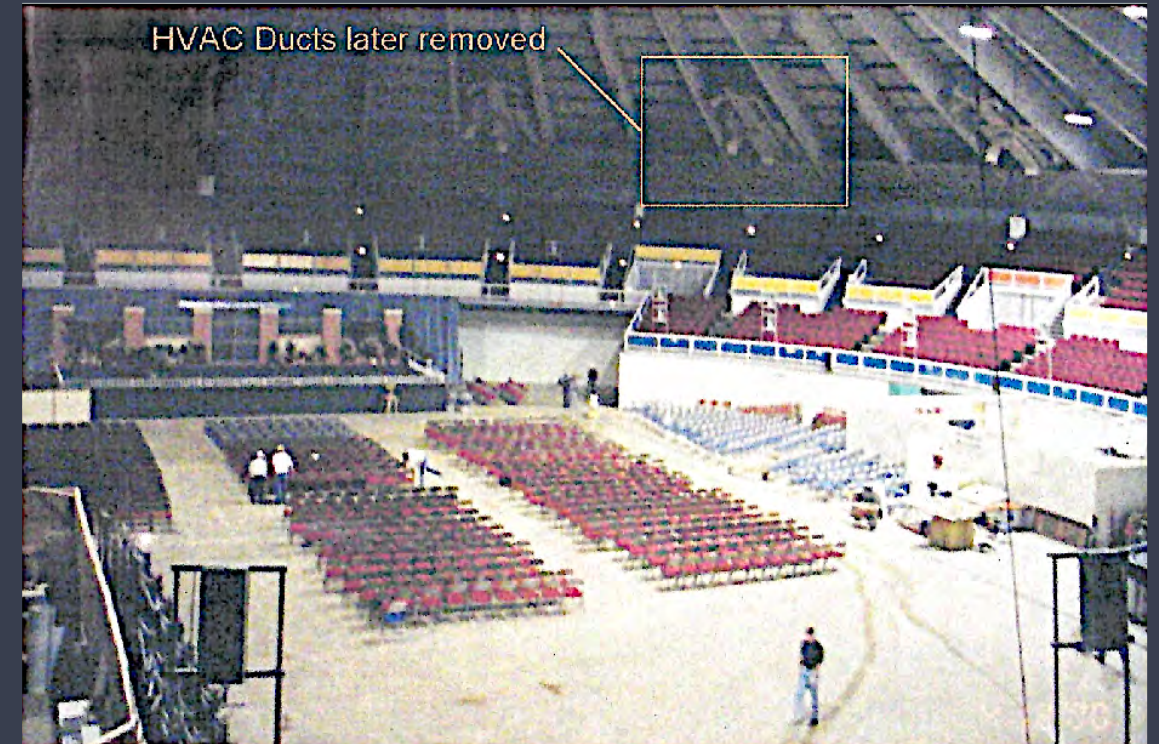


Octubre de 1998
Tan solo 30 días después de la compra, el auditorio se utilizó para una asamblea de circuito



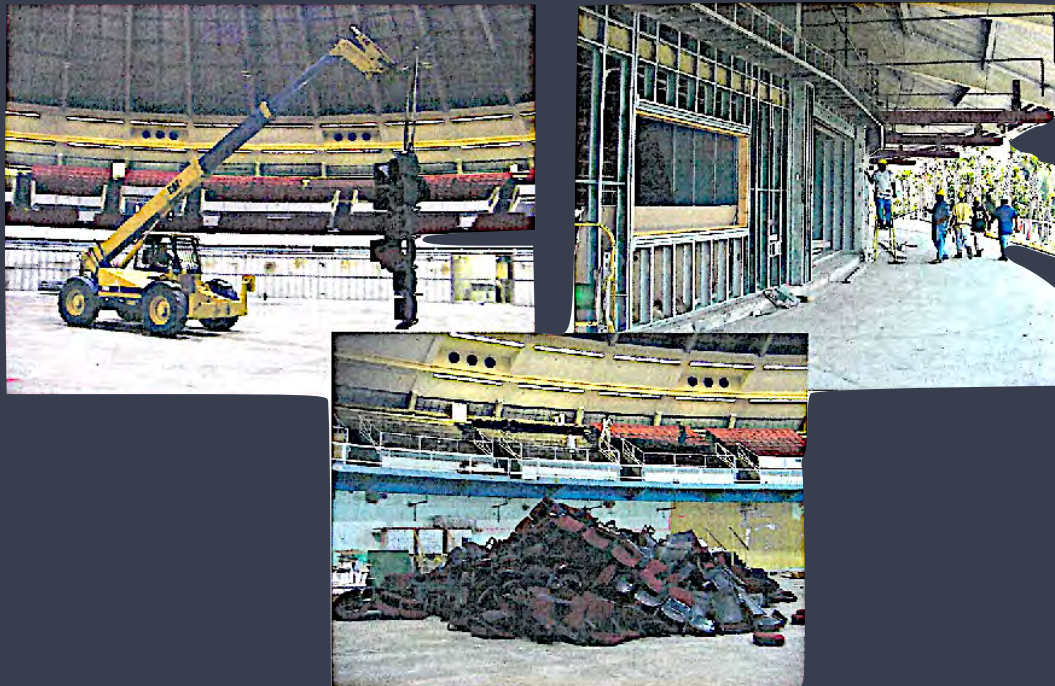
Noviembre de 1999 - febrero de 2000

Se reconstruye el estacionamiento con concreto



Septiembre de 1999

Se reemplazan los aires acondicionados

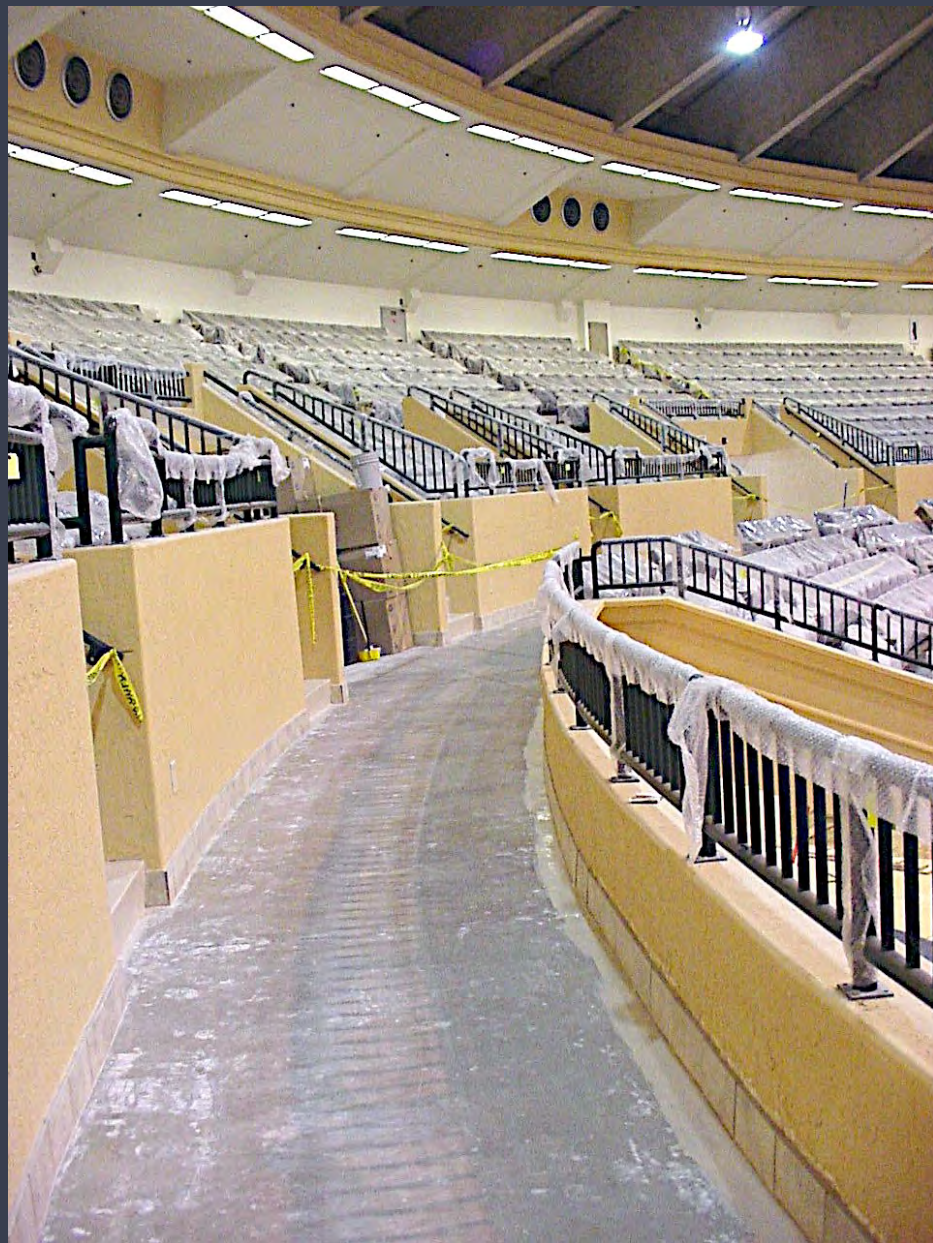


Agosto de 2001

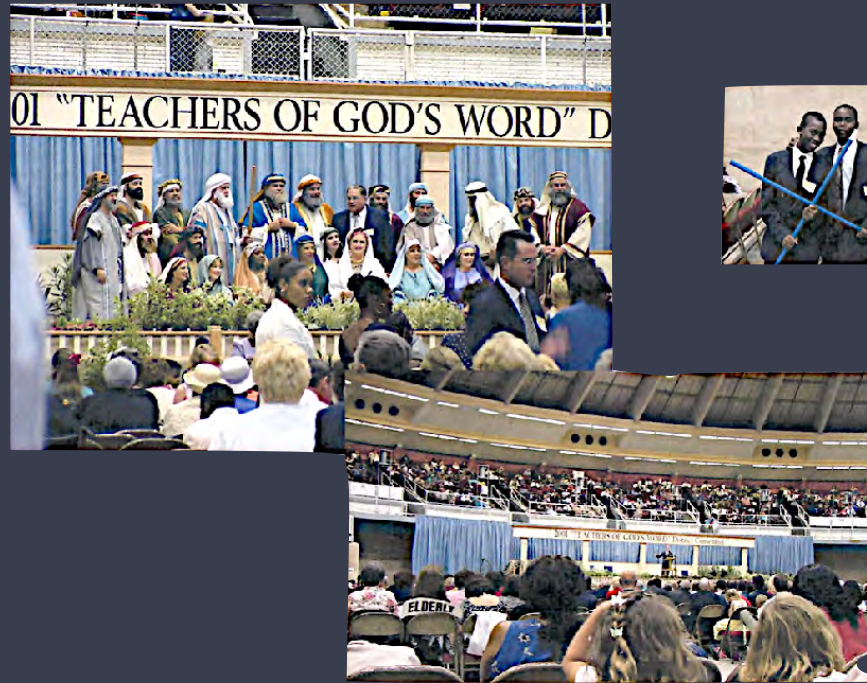
Se quitan los asientos y se ponen paredes nuevas



Se instalan las alfombras



Se cubren los asientos del segundo nivel para protegerlos



Agosto de 2001

Se comienza a utilizar el
Salón de Asambleas
durante la remodelación



Se usan equipos pesados para reubicar y conservar
las numerosas palmeras que adornan la propiedad



El embellecimiento del local comenzó con la reubicación de estas palmeras, gracias a un equipo eficiente de jardinería.



La limpieza durante la remodelación fue esencial para garantizar la seguridad de nuestros hermanos



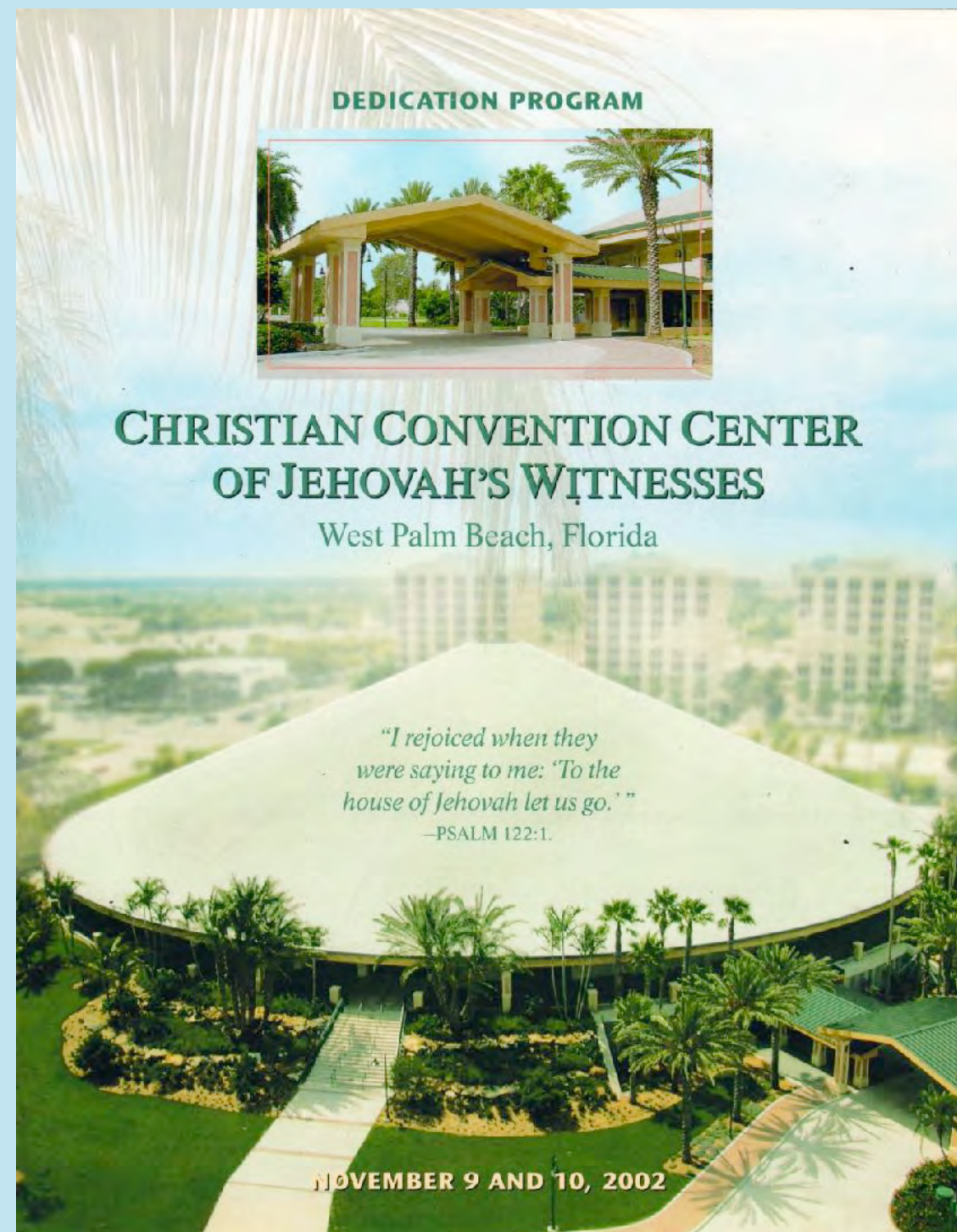
Nuestra primera asamblea después de la remodelación: "Celosos proclamadores del Reino" en el 2002



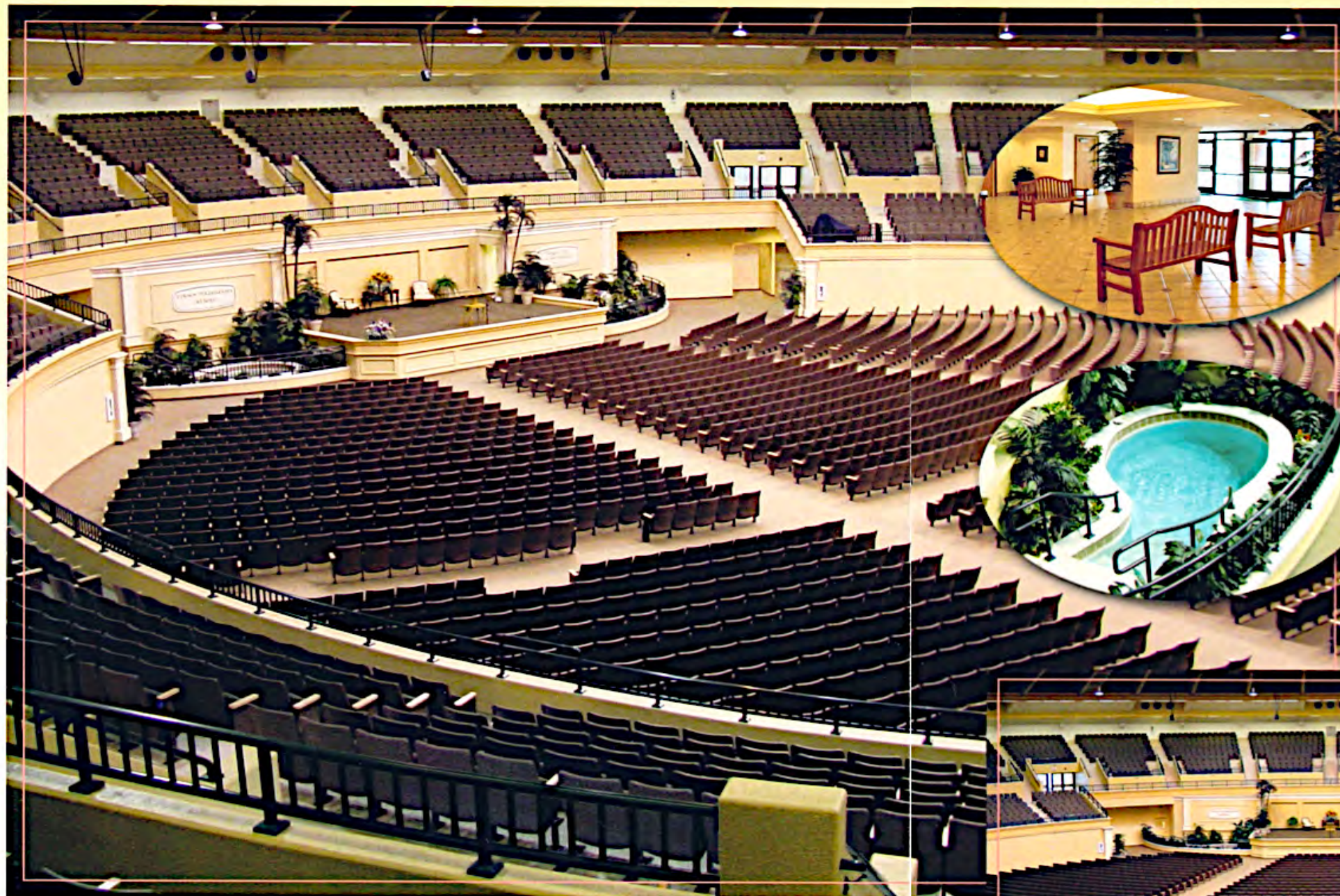
Los diligentes hermanos que trabajaron en este Salón de Asambleas
desean que disfrute de su visita.

Sección 7: Galería de fotos de la dedicación del Salón de Asambleas de West Palm Beach

	PROGRAMA ESPECIAL
	DOMINGO, 10 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2002
10:00 a.m.	Cántico 181
10:05 a.m.	Oración de apertura F. FAYAD
10:10 a.m.	Bienvenida y comentarios iniciales del presidente R. RIVERA
10:20 a.m.	Crecimiento de la obra del Reino en el sur de Florida W. VAN DE WALL
10:40 a.m.	Cómo se convirtió este local en un centro de asambleas de los testigos de Jehová E. ABOUD
11:00 a.m.	Renovación y transformación del edificio y sus alrededores L. CHAPEL
11:30 a.m.	Las bendiciones de Jehová sobre nuestros esfuerzos unidos A. SÁNCHEZ
11:45 a.m.	Se da un espléndido testimonio a la comunidad N. VIDAORRAZAGA
12:00 p.m.	Cántico 42 y anuncios
12:10 p.m.	Discurso especial: Enseñados por Jehová para hacer su voluntad T. JARACZ
12:55 p.m.	Cántico 212
1:00 p.m.	Oración de conclusión C. ROBINSON



**Programa de dedicación
9 y 10 de noviembre de 2002**



DEDICATION PROGRAM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2002

- 2:00 p.m. Song No. 181
- 2:05 p.m. Opening Prayer B. ZIMMERMAN
- 2:10 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
by Chairman M. SMITH
- 2:20 p.m. Growth of the Kingdom Work
in South Florida W. VAN DE WALL
- 2:35 p.m. How This Facility Came to Be a Convention
Center for Jehovah's Witnesses J. KERR
- 2:50 p.m. Renovation and Transformation of This
Building and the Surrounding Area T. MURPHY
- 3:20 p.m. Jehovah's Blessings Upon Our
United Efforts H. MAYER
- 3:35 p.m. Giving a Fine Witness in the Community
D. BREAUZ
- 3:50 p.m. Song No. 42 and Announcements
- 4:00 p.m. Dedication Talk: Jehovah's Witnesses
—Serving the Divine Purpose T. IARACZ
- 4:40 p.m. Song No. 212
- 4:45 p.m. Closing Prayer D. CHARNESKI



CENTRO CRISTIANO DE ASAMBLEAS DE LOS TESTIGOS DE JEHOVÁ

*"Me regocijé cuando estuvieron diciéndome:
'Vamos a la casa de Jehová.'"*

(SALMO 122:1)

Programa de dedicación

9 y 10 de noviembre de 2002



PROGRAMA ESPECIAL

DOMINGO, 10 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2002

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| 10:00 a.m. | Cántico 181 | |
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| 12:10 p.m. | Discurso especial: Enseñados por Jehová para hacer su voluntad | T. JARACZ |
| 12:55 p.m. | Cántico 212 | |
| 1:00 p.m. | Oración de conclusión | C. ROBINSON |



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Programa de dedicación

9 y 10 de noviembre de 2002

Sección 8: *Galería de fotos del Salón de Asambleas*



El Salón de Asambleas de West Palm Beach es conocido por ser uno de los Salones de Asambleas más grandes de todos los Estados Unidos.



(superior izquierda) Vista del estacionamiento; (superior derecha) entrada principal; (inferior izquierda) pasillo del segundo piso; (inferior derecha) palmeras reclinata; (centro) letrero de la entrada



Letrero de entrada de Palm Beach Lakes BLVD.



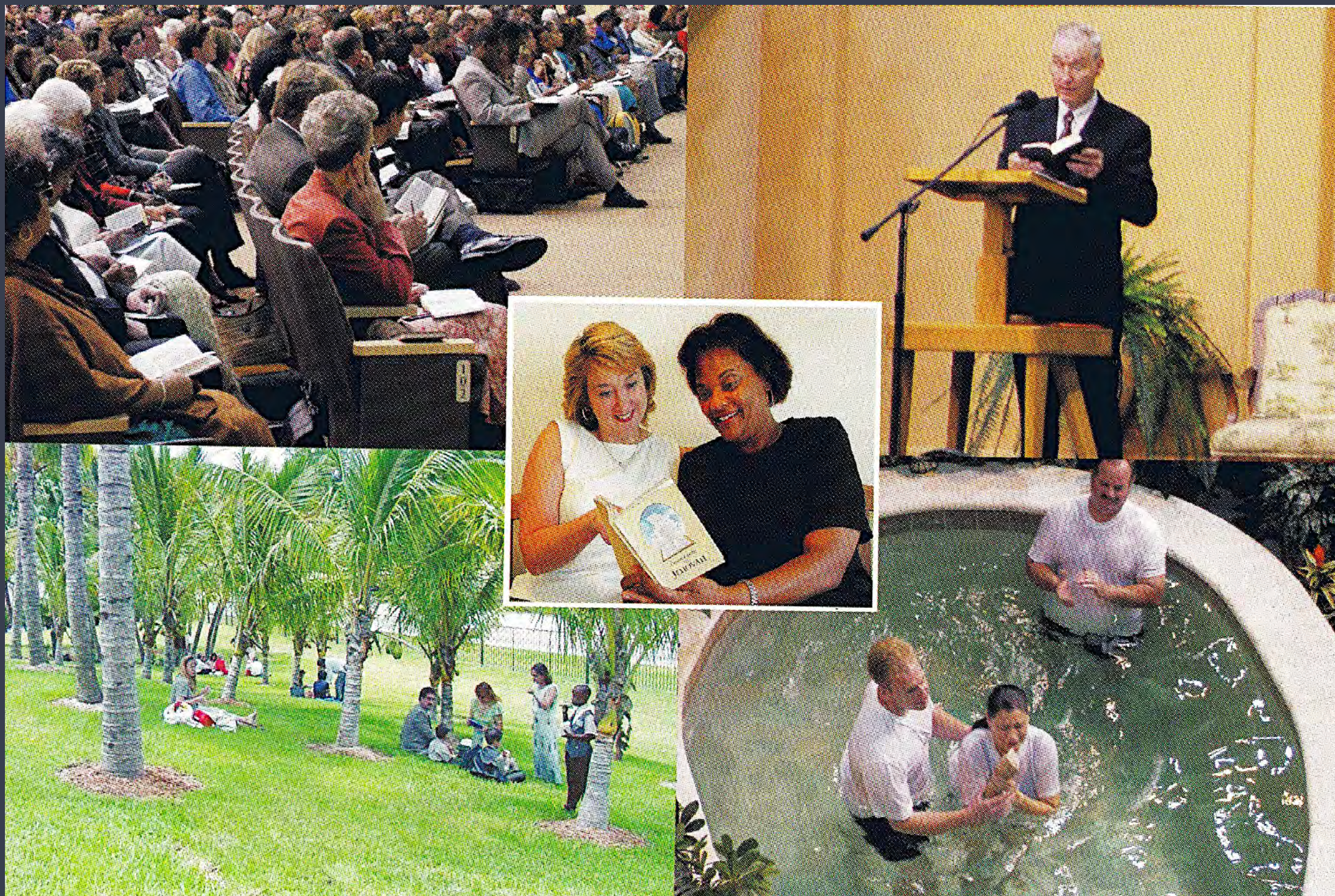
Hermosos jardines tropicales



Vista del auditorio



Vista del auditorio ocupado



Disfrutando del programa y del compañerismo cristiano



(superior izquierda) Oficina administrativa; (superior derecha) comedor para voluntarios; (inferior izquierda) cuarto de limpieza; (inferior derecha) sala de conferencias; (centro) equipo de jardinería



Uno de los dormitorios

Bienvenidos

