

## N E W S R E L E A S E

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Joyce R. Forchion  
(305) 626-3624  
[jforchio@fmuniv.edu](mailto:jforchio@fmuniv.edu)

### **SPEAKING HANDS TO PERFORM AT FLORIDA MEMORIAL ON EASTER SUNDAY**



*Speaking Hands*

**MIAMI GARDENS, FL [APRIL 3, 2007]** – “Speaking Hands,” the popular, youth-oriented sign language ministry from Plantation, Florida, will perform at Florida Memorial during the University Worship Service on Sunday, April 8, 2007 at 12:00 noon. The Easter service will be held in the Chapel of the Susie C. Holley Religious Center on campus (15800 NW 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Miami Gardens) and will be officiated by Rev. Wendell H. Paris, Jr., the university’s Campus Minister. “This remarkable group is highly regarded in South Florida and throughout the United States because they use a unique medium to spread universal messages of inspiration to diverse communities,” remarked Rev. Paris. “This performance will not only be an entertaining avenue to highlight the service, but also an enlightening and educational experience for guests who have never seen the troupe before,” he continued.

“Speaking Hands” is a traveling ministry that is composed of a spirited group of fifteen young ambassadors ranging in ages from 13 to 17. Mrs. Claudette Barrett, the troupe’s Founder and Director, stated that the group’s mission is to spread the word of God through the melodies and lyrics of Gospel music, accompanied by their expressive use of American Sign Language. “We hope to bridge the gap between the hearing and hearing impaired communities,” she said. Mrs. Barrett also anticipates that her group of young performers will inspire the audience to share their own personal labors of love with their neighbors and families. “I want the audience to feel the impact of the presentation, which will hopefully encourage folks to do what they can to bless others,” she shared.

For more information about the University Worship Service scheduled for Easter Sunday, please contact Joyce R. Forchion, Communications Coordinator for the Office of Public Affairs, at (305) 626-3624 or [jforchio@fmuniv.edu](mailto:jforchio@fmuniv.edu). To read more about Speaking Hands, visit [www.speakinghands.org](http://www.speakinghands.org).

*Located in the City of Miami Gardens, Florida Memorial University is a private, historically Black institution offering 41 undergraduate degree programs and 4 graduate degree programs to a culturally diverse student body. Since its inception in 1879, the university has upheld a commitment to providing a solid foundation for thousands of young people and opening doors to educational opportunities that may have otherwise been closed to them. As South Florida’s ONLY Black university, it is widely recognized for being the birthplace of the Negro National Anthem, “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.” For more information, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (305) 626-3624.*