

# N. Hialeah Baptists Start \$150,000 Building Project

No. 223 In a Series

By JOSEPH FAUS

The secret or the mental serenity of members of North Hialeah Baptist Church, 5800 Palm Ave., is that they know God's promises will be kept.

"Parents and teachers," said the pastor, Rev. Samuel B. Jordan, Sr., "learn early that promises cannot be made too freely. Nothing condemns an adult in the mind and trusting confidence of a child as seriously as a broken promise. Between friends, also, promises should be made advisedly.

"God alone can make promises unreservedly! He knows all the facts involved — present, past and future. Sometimes patience wears thin. Too often, in time of trial, faith weakens and doubts arise. Yet the blessings He has promised will surely come, provided we are willing to meet the conditions He has set.

"Our willingness in surrendered lives — come what may, whatever the cost — is an essential part of the promise. Only then can we know with certainty that 'there hath not failed one word of all His good promise.'"

#### Riverside Sponsored Mission

Two years ago Bro. Jordan felt that many persons residing in the area adjacent to Little River Ca-



REV. SAMUEL B. JORDAN

ber met for church service and Sunday school in the larger home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Albury, 313 East 63rd St. In two months the young North Hialeah mission had an enrollment of about 40, and a larger meeting place was imperative.

A building, at 330 East 60th St., was rented. It was remodeled into a sanctuary, and occupied July 1, 1952. For the ensuing two weeks a Vacation Bible School was held. It had an attendance of 74 children! Other services continued.

In August the congregation considered as a permanent home site a five-acre tract of land at 58th St. and Palm Ave. On it were two houses, a large ranch-type edifice facing the avenue, and a smaller dwelling. In October the sponsoring church, Riverside

of 252! Indeed, greater facilities soon became necessary, and the congregation is now erecting the first unit of a modern church plant that on completion will cost \$150,000.

More important than all this, an increasing number of people have come to North Hialeah Baptist Church to accept and to cherish God's promises as supports of their faith and as challenges to more deeply dedicated Christian living.

All this material and spiritual progress is due largely to the consecrated leadership of the pastor. A native of Godfren, Ga., Bro. Jordan received an A.B. degree from Mercer University, and diplomas from the Chicago Y.M.C.A. and Athens (Ga.) Business College. He earned his Master of Theology degree in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

For almost 35 years this veteran worker has sown the seeds of God's promises in five earthly vineyards and has seen countless people reap the precious harvest in richer and better lives.

His service tenure in these five pastorates averages seven years each, which attests strongly to his ability and popularity. Prior to his present pastorate, he served at First Baptist Church in Hialeah for almost seven years.

Wife is School Teacher

that "there hath not failed one word of all His good promise." "

**Riverside Sponsored Mission**

Two years ago Bro. Jordan felt that many persons residing in the area adjacent to Little River Canal and north of the city of Hialeah would be willing to surrender their lives to God and so gain eternal life. He laid this matter before Dr. James A. Parrish, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, who was very sympathetic.

The subject was taken up by the mission committee of this great church. A survey was made of the area in question. Ending favorably, the committee called Rev. M. Jordan to begin the development of a new church.

On Sunday, March 14, 1952, five persons, including Bro. Jordan, met for Scripture reading and prayer in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Mills, 339 East 63rd St., Hialeah.

More persons indicated their desire to join this group. The following Sunday a sizeable num-

ber of persons were con- sidered as a permanent home site a five-acre tract of land at 58th St. and Palm Ave. On it were two houses, a large ranch-type edifice facing the avenue, and a smaller dwelling. In October the sponsoring church, Riverside Baptist, generously purchased this property for the suburban mission.

**Building Remodeled**

Members greatly cleared the land. They remodeled the ranch-type edifice into an attractive chapel with an auditorium and nine Sunday school rooms, and changed the other building into a home for the beginners and nursery departments.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, 1952, North Hialeah Baptist Church held its first worship service and Sunday school in these two houses of the God of sacred promise.

Since that date the growth has been phenomenal. Church attendance has tripled, Sunday school attendance has quadrupled. A Vacation Bible school, held in August, 1953, had an enrollment

of 100. The average age of the children is seven years each, which attests strongly to his ability and popularity. Prior to his present pastorate, he served at First Baptist Church in Hialeah for almost seven years.

**Wife is School Teacher**

Mrs. Jordan, a public school teacher, is of great aid to her husband. A son, Rev. Samuel B. Jordan, Jr., is a minister in Louisville, Ky. Two daughters, Mrs. Frances Jones and Mrs. Doris Jones, are Sunday school teachers.

Today the North Hialeah Baptist Church has a membership of 110, a Sunday school enrollment of 275, and a property valuation of \$25,000.

The directory includes L. B. Mills, superintendent of Sunday school; Clifton Brown, director of Training Union; Mrs. C. E. Brown, president of Woman's Missionary Society; Woodrow Hoeben, chairman of building committee; Mrs. L. B. Mills, church treasurer; J. E. Rankin, director of choir; Mrs. Margaret Hoeben and Mrs. J. E. Rankin, conductors of the kindergarten of pre-school age children.

God has made His promises and the members of North Hialeah Baptist Church show their firm belief in His promises by their performances as active Christians.

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## WORD GAME

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**REPROACH**

(Reproach: re-PROACH; to blame, chide)

# HIALEAH

## 1922 - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY - 1975

In 1922 a community Sunday School was started in the area of the present Hialeah South Elementary School. The Rev. O. E. Orwich, a Baptist minister, started the Sunday School and later, with a group of parents, organized a school. The Missions Committee of the Miami Baptist Association had its eyes on Hialeah, with a view of establishing work here. In the spring of 1926 a church was organized with twenty-five charter members. Rev. Chester Todd was called as pastor. The difficulties of a new work at Hialeah were many. The very fact that the town of Hialeah was built around the gambling interest of this section made it hard to build up moral and spiritual institutions such as a church. The church had no lot, and no adequate place in which to meet. The members were faithful, but they did not possess much of this world's goods. The congregation met in a private home, which was destroyed in a hurricane on September 18, 1926. After the hurricane, many of the members moved away and it was difficult to say just what the future would be at Hialeah.

First Baptist had to struggle against many difficulties both from within and without. After the hurricane arrangements were made to hold services in the Hialeah Elementary School. Early records show the Curtiss-Bright Company, early developers of the city of Hialeah, gave a lot on East First Avenue and Seventh St. to the Florida Baptist Mission Board for a church site. The Mission Board purchased the lot next to the gift in order to secure a sufficient site. Along with this purchase the board also gave \$1,700.00 for building. The lot and money were given out of some of the first Cooperative Program gifts received in the state of Florida. Thus, both 50th Anniversary-First Baptist and the Cooperative Program - are very meaningful to our church.

The first building was a two story frame structure. Although not completed, the congregation occupied it in the spring of 1927. Rev. Todd resigned in the early summer to go away to school. Rev. C.A. Cox of Taft, Florida, was called as pastor. Bro. Cox remained as pastor for seven years. During this time the church gained strength. In December of 1927, the Church Covenant and Declaration of Faith were adopted. In July of 1928, the church asked the Missions Board for less support and, in November 1929, requested the Board to transfer deeds of church property to the church. In October 1931, the state paper - Baptist Witness - was included in the church budget and still is to date. On February 27, 1935, Rev. Cox resigned.

During the later part of the summer of 1935, a hurricane demolished the church building and all activities were transferred to the City Hall in Hialeah. On January 19, 1936, Rev. A. W. Taylor was called as pastor. With the building of a new church before the congregation, the work would again be hard. Rev. Taylor first served as missionary pastor with financial aid from the State Mission Board. In 1937, under the leadership of Rev. Taylor another auditorium was built. This structure was the first concrete and steel building. Rev. Taylor was pastor until 1940.

Succeeding Rev. Taylor was Rev. William Jones, who pastored the church for a period of two years. From 1944 to 1950, Rev. Samuel B. Jordan, Sr., was pastor. During his ministry Sunset Heights Baptist Church was established as a mission. Also, during this time, three additional lots were purchased and an educational unit constructed at the rear of the existing auditorium.

In 1950, Rev. R. Perry Tomlinson came as pastor, and served until March 7, 1965. During the pastorate of Rev. Tomlinson, much growth took place in the life of the church. In April of 1952, the first issue of "Church Life", the church paper, was published. Miss Lucille Welch came as Educational Director and Gratten Tomlinson was Music Director. In 1952, a mission was established at Graham's Dairy. The land was made available to us by the generosity of the late Senator Ernest R. Graham. During this year an 11-point program of building was adopted and on August 17, 1952, construction was begun on the temporary auditorium and permanent educational building. This building was dedicated October 4, 1953. On October 9, 1955, a church library was opened and has continued through the years. C.J. Hoolsema came to serve as fulltime Minister of Music and Education on January 2, 1955. Construction was begun on an educational building directly behind the temporary auditorium in October of 1957. This building, known as the Mullins Building, was dedicated in 1958.

October 10, 1957, saw work started with Spanish-speaking people with Rev. Milton Leach serving as pastor. In June of 1959, Gratten Tomlinson returned to the church to serve as Minister of Music and Youth. On August, 1960, another two story educational building was built. This is known as the Lunsford building. From 1960 to 1968, Dr. Aurelio Travieso was the pastor of the Spanish speaking congregation. A mission was organized at North Palm Springs in 1962. In the same year an auditorium was built, followed by an educational building for North Palm Mission.

January 6, 1963, was the completion and dedication of a nursery building with ten well equipped nurseries. Rev. Tomlinson resigned on March 7, 1965, to accept the call to the Parkway Baptist Church. During the year of 1965, a two-story building, (Kimmons Building), housing a new kitchen, dining room, and elementary department, was completed.

Dr. Ernest R. Campbell was called as pastor in February of 1966. Under his leadership a chapel with educational space was built for the Spanish Department in 1967. The old (1937) auditorium was leveled to make way for a new auditorium. Several pieces of property were acquired. Three buildings were razed to provide parking facilities for approximately 155 cars. On Easter Sunday 1967, North Palm Chapel became a constituted church, and continues a great ministry. On June 12, 1966, Clay A. Krummel came to serve as Minister of Education and Perry L. Scott came in November of 1967, to serve as Minister of Music and Youth.

The year of 1968 saw the completion and dedication of the new 1,000 seat auditorium and two story educational building. The

church property now covers more than half a block of buildings and approximately one half block of parking facilities.

In 1965 there was a beginning of decline in the church attendance which continued to grow for ten years. In the fall of 1970, the church was searching for its future and the Lord led in several areas of outreach. In August of 1970, a program of weekday ministries in child care was started. The Day Care was opened with space for 160 children, birth through five years of age. January 1971, saw two important areas of work to begin. The congregation was challenged with starting a Bus Ministry in February which has grown to one of the finest in our city. Also, during the 1971 year, plans were formulated to begin our school. The first year of school was first through the sixth grades. The school has led in the best of education since its beginning. We now have grades through the Junior High level. With the additional areas of work developing, our church saw a need for the Spanish work to be more closely united with the overall church life. Rev. Edwin Diaz was called as pastor to the Spanish-speaking people and led in the development of the present ministry. As the Bus Ministry began to grow, the need for full time direction became evident and the church called Rev. Ben Tidwell to lead this area of work. Dr. Campbell resigned on March of 1974, to go to Boynton Beach, Florida.

In September of 1975, Dr. James H. Ballard was called to pastor our church and has led in the area of church renewal. The years before us are very promising. Many avenues of work are reaching people from all over our city and outlying areas. The fifty years have been great and the next fifty are expected to be even greater.

The present membership of First Baptist Church is 1761. During the last fifty years, 2,370 persons have been baptized into the church family and \$4,306,259.98 has been given in gifts to the church and world wide mission programs. The church has buildings worth \$1,074,000.00 located on twenty four lots in the downtown area of the City of Hialeah, Florida.

# HiALCAH

## Former Pastors



REV. C. A. COX  
1927-1935

REV. CHESTER TODD  
1926-1927



REV. A. W. TAYLOR  
1936-1940

REV. WILLIAM M. JONES  
1941-1943



REV. SAMUEL B. JORDAN  
1944-1950



REV. R. PERRY TOMLINSON  
1950-1965



DR. ERNEST R. CAMPBELL  
1966-1974

Friday, October 30, 2009  
History of First Baptist Church of Pine Castle, Florida

I'm helping my great-aunt Carol and the rest of the history committee over at FBCPC to compile a book to be released next year to coincide with the opening of their new sanctuary.

So far, they've gathered quite a bit of odds and ends. This morning, they handed it off to me over breakfast at Carol's Place and asked me to go thru it and make additions, corrections, suggestions, etc.

I'm thinking the biggest thing they need to do is organize the material, and am going to suggest they group everything by pastorate. In that vein, I compiled the following list of all the church's pastors, and thought I'd share it with ye socks. Let me know if you can share any additional information about these guys, especially as relates to their time in Pine Castle:

Thomas Jefferson Bell, 1887-?  
George M.T. Wilson, 1891-1893  
G. Alex Bryant, 1894-1897  
Alex Tindall, 1898  
Owen N. Williams, 1901-1902  
B.H. Guy, 1905-1906  
W.E. Murphy, 1909-1910  
S.R. Bowman, 1911  
E.A. Milton, 1913-1914  
E.T. Poulson, 1915-1916  
K.B. Tupper, 1917-1918  
J. Dean Adcock, 1919  
S.G. Symonds, 1920-1921  
Rev. Wheeler, 1922  
J.B. Webb, 1923-1927  
Sam B. Jordan, 1927-1937  
O. George Hall, 1937-1946  
Paul Henley, 1946-1947  
W.E. Murphy (again!), 1947  
V.N. Maggard, 1948-1953  
A.M. Glisson, 1953-1961  
Earnest A. Petroff, 1961  
Thomas A. Ellington, 1961-1965  
Elvin R. Hall, 1965-1987  
Mel Gentry, 1987-1988  
David McAlpin, 1988-1993  
Joe Boatwright, 1993-1994  
Bob Followell, 1994-2000  
Joe Boatwright (again!), 2000-2001  
Bill Burkhalter, 2001-present

# Florida Features



Tim Benson



Bob Riddle



Robert P. Followell



John L. Jennings

Samuel B. Jordan Sr., a former Florida pastor, died in Gainesville on March 20. He was 94.

Funeral services were held on March 23 at First Church, Gainesville. Phil Bennett, minister of education at the church, officiated. Interment was in Forest Meadows Memorial Park, Gainesville.

A minister for 51 years, Jordan served churches in Kentucky and Georgia before coming to Florida in 1923. His Florida pastorates include: First Churches in Pine Castle, Clermont, Canal Point and Hialeah; North Hialeah Church, Hialeah; and South Miami Heights Church, Miami. Jordan also served as associate pastor at Riverside Church, Miami.

Survivors include his widow, Evelyn Jordan; two daughters, Doris Jones and Frances Jones, both of Gainesville; and a son, Samuel B. Jordan Jr. of Versailles, Ky.

## Homecomings

**First Church, Lake Monroe:** May 1, 68th anniversary; Charles W. Dunn, guest speaker; special music by The Sons of Song; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon; former pastors, members and friends invited; George Crossley, pastor.

**New Prospect Church, Chipley:** April 24; Ernie Henderson, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon by The Representatives; former pastors, members and friends invited; Jim Lawson, pastor.

**First Church, St. Marks:** April 24; Pastor Douglas Martin, speaker; dinner on the grounds; special music by the young adult ensemble of First Church, Tallahassee; former pastors, members and friends invited.

**First Church, Chassahowitz:** April 24; Lafayette Walker, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds; special music by the youth choir of First Church, Crystal River; Elwyn G. Edwards, pastor.

**First Church, Cedar Key:** May 1; Pastor A. C. Bryant, speaker; special music by the Pine Ridge Quartet; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon; members and friends invited.

**Gibsonia Church, Lakeland:** May 1, 31st anniversary; Ted M. Corley, pastor.

First Church, Winter Park, ordained **Tim Benson**, a former youth intern at the church, to the gospel ministry on March 16. He will graduate from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, in May.

The church also called **Bob Riddle** as associate to education and outreach. He goes from the Georgia Baptist Convention in Atlanta, where he was the Sunday School Department director.

On March 27 **Kermit R. Holt** was ordained to the gospel ministry by First Church of Smithfield, Fort Worth, Texas. A student at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, he is a resident of Winter Haven.

V. C. Whittaker is available for supply or interim work. He may be contacted at P.O. Box 156, Century, Fla. 32535, (904) 256-3327.

Two Floridians have completed requirements for graduation at New Orleans Seminary. **Robert Paul Followell** of Orlando received the Master of Divinity degree, and **John Louis Jennings** of Haines City received the Master of Church Music degree.

Over the Easter weekend, **First Church, Homestead**, became the first religious group in Dade County to broadcast over cable TV. For two hours it beamed programs to 30,000 households in South Dade over Americable's Channel 26. David Cobb is pastor at Homestead.

## Revival Report

**Hickory Grove Church, Green Cove Springs:** James Smith, evangelist; 32 professions of faith; Phil Messinger, pastor.



PASTOR JOHN L. PELHAM and his wife, Judy (left), were honored by First Church, Palatka, on March 19-20 for their 20 years of service. Activities began with a "roast" on Saturday. Among the many presentations the Pelhams received were an autographed picture of Arnold Palmer; an Arnold Palmer putter; a book of letters from friends, fellow pastors and church members; and an 11-day tour of Great Britain and Scotland. Presenting the gifts are Robert Mitchem (right), chairman of deacons, and Jack Norwood, 20th anniversary committee.

Apr. 21 '83