

Miami ~~1989~~ 1989
DEDICATION



DR. EMIT O. RAY

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST

MIAMI, FLORIDA

PASTOR

MARCH, 1970 - MAY, 1990

PASTOR EMERITUS - 1990

MODERATOR, MIAMI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1983

IN HONOR OF THIS DEDICATED SERVANT OF GOD WHO HAS FAITHFULLY FILLED SEVERAL OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE CONVENTION, WE DEDICATE THIS EIGHTY-FIRST ANNUAL OF THE MIAMI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Send to Dr Joiner

STETSON UNIVERSITY NEWS

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STETSON HONORS FLORIDA BAPTIST MINISTERS OF THE YEAR

DELAND -- Three Florida Baptist ministers were honored by Stetson University during the 17th annual Baptist Appreciation Luncheon April 10.

This year's honorees were: the Rev. Dr. Emit O. Ray, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Miami; the Rev. Mr. Raymond Coppage, King's Baptist Church, Vero Beach; and the Rev. Mr. Bob L. Christie, Lake Maggiore Baptist Church, St. Petersburg.

Biog File

Nominations for "Ministers of the Year" are made by various Florida Baptist churches and organizations. The final selection is by a Stetson committee on the basis of outstanding service, not only to their congregations but to their communities.

Among those paying tribute to the Ministers of the Year were Stetson and Florida Baptist Convention dignitaries, including Dr. Dan Stringer, executive director/treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention; Dr. Pope A. Duncan, president of Stetson; Dr. John Pelham, Stetson's vice president for church relations and a former FBC president; and Dr. E. Earl Joiner, chairman of the religion department.

Dr. Ray was unable to attend the luncheon because he is in India, but will receive his award later in Miami. He has served the congregation of Riverside Church since 1970. He is a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, and has been chairman of the State Board of Missions Executive Board and chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Florida Baptist Convention.

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appreciation/last add

A former missionary in the Caribbean area, Dr. Ray also has been pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas, the largest Baptist church in the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists.

Under his leadership, Riverside Church relocated and built a new facility in 1977. During the last eight years, church and Sunday School attendance have grown an average of 10 percent each year.

Mr. Christie was graduated from Stetson University in 1952 and is a former president of the Stetson Ministerial Alumni Association. He has been pastor of Lake Maggiore Church since 1985.

He is a member of the Florida State Board of Missions, a former trustee and chairman of the board of Florida Baptist Children's Home, and former second vice president of the Florida Baptist Convention. He also has been active in the Pinellas Baptist Association and in other associations where he has been a pastor.

Mr. Coppage served a number of churches in his native Georgia and in Tennessee and Alabama before coming to King's Church in 1972. He is a former member of the State Board of Missions, participated in the Florida Baptist mission trip to Korea in 1980, and has been active in the Indian River Baptist Association. He has been moderator of the association and chairs the Personnel Committee.

Pastors and Interim Pastors of First Baptist Church and Staff Who Served Under Each

1. Henry Howard Sturgis* 1909-1911
2. J. W. White* 1911-1912
3. J. C. Rogers* 1913
4. Milton M. Bales* 1913-1916
5. J. W. Barton* 1916-1918
6. J. A. Sutton* 1918-1921
7. Charles M. White* 1921-1922
8. Charles N. Walker* 1922-1938
9. J. E. Johnston* 1939-1943
10. Bob Willets* 1943
11. L. B. Crantford* 1943-1947
Virgil Lyons*, W. H. Rowe*,
Lena Helen Martin
12. J. L. White* 1947- 1948
13. J. H. Witt* 1948- 1954
14. B. A. Bowers* 1954
15. F. H. Rice* 1954-1957
Josh Wilson, Lawrence Stewart*
16. Luther Key* 1957-1961
Lawrence Stewart*, Roy Cotton,
Gratten Tomlinson, James Justus,
M. C. Walker
17. Otis W. Garland* 1962-1968
O. L. Jarvis*, I. L. Griffin*, Ida Mabel Clark,
King Abernathy, John Christmas,
Allen Simmons
18. J. Elwood Rawls* 1968-1974
J. L. Griffin*, Jack Goldfarb, Katie Burdick,
Sherrie Winkleman, Richard Schinman,
Gary Cason, Leon Essex*, J. W. Smith,
Jerry Todd
19. Doyle Wetherington 1975-1979
Jimmy Crews, Steve Parris, Tim Lee,
Harold St. Gemme, Tom Ledbetter,
David Cochran
20. David Cobb 1980-1985
Pam Helms, Harold St. Gemme,
Bubba Cox, Ivan Cason*
21. Nathan Pulling 1985
Pam Helms
22. James Doyle 1985-1992
Russell Philpot, Jim Kilpatrick,
Pam Helms, David Watts, Eddie DelRio
23. Emit Ray* 1992-1993
Pam Helms, Russell Philpot,
Jim Kilpatrick
24. Jack Auten 1993-2002
Russell Philpot, Pam Helms, Brad Higerd
Matt Gilmore
25. Ray Van der Wal 2002-2003
Russell Philpot, Pam Helms, Matt Gilmore
26. Howard Harden 2003-Present
Pam Helms, Russell Philpot,
Matt Gilmore, Joe Friman

Pastors listed are according to their tenure. Staff are according to records available at the present and may not include all staff members who served First Baptist as Associate Pastor, Music Director, Educational Director and Youth Director.

* Deceased

Emit Ray, 84, dies in Miami Nov. 17

MIAMI (FBW)—Emit Ray, retired pastor of Riverside Baptist Church, Miami, died Nov. 17. He was 84. He served as chairman of the board of the Baptist Hospital of Miami, on the North American Mission Board and State Board of Missions 1977-80.

Ray was a native of Texas and a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

He volunteered as a bombardier in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, participating in the bombing of Kure Harbor, a Japanese naval base.

He and his wife, Kathryn, served

as Southern Baptist missionaries in Nassau, Bahamas, and Trinidad. They returned to the U.S. to a pastorate in Wichita, Kansas, before moving to Miami in 1970. As pastor of Riverside, he led the congregation to support a Hispanic church in the downtown location and to move the Anglo ministry to the suburbs. He led several mission groups from Riverside to minister in the Caribbean during his 20-year tenure. In retirement he served as interim pastor of several Miami-area churches and worked on the board of Baptist Hospital of Miami.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; three children, Karen, Steven and Kurt; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Steven Ray is pastor of Gateway Baptist Church in Miami.



RAY

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