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VIRGINIA SYMPATHIZES WITH FLORIDA CHURCHES AND PASTORS

The secular papers are carrying disturbing stories of bank troubles in Florida and Alabama. In Florida the report up to this time is that twenty-three banks have closed their doors. Florida is a long way off and yet one of our best friends, Rev. W. T. Hundley, was hard hit by these bank troubles. There were two banks in his town and both of them closed a little over a week ago. He had some money saved up in one of them and it seems likely that he will suffer a total loss. He happens to be a Baptist preacher and is in line with the majority of the fraternity in having scant worldly gear, so that the loss is doubtless serious. Hundley, by the way, is coming to Virginia, to supply the pulpit of the Westhampton Baptist Church, Richmond, on the fourth Sunday in August and the first Sunday in September. He will be available for other supply work the third Sunday in August and any Sunday in September after the first. At this writing we do not know what his address will be while he is in Virginia, but persons interested in securing his services may write to the care of the Religious Herald. He is one of the best of our preachers. —Religious Herald.

The Community Chest of New Orleans distributes approximately \$75,000 every month for charity work by hospitals and other social agencies. But Superintendent Bristow reports that the Baptist Hospital in New Or-

leans is not permitted to share in this distribution, although it was included in the published lists when subscriptions were taken for the Chest. Southern Baptists will have to do their own work in New Orleans if any is done.

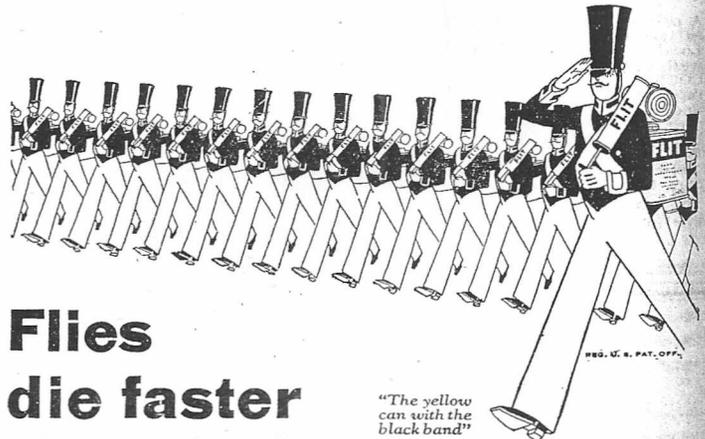
LEMON CITY CHURCH

(Continued from Page 3)

sion. We hope to keep rich spiritually if not materially.

Rev. J. B. Rodgers

He was born in Polk County, Florida. Both his grandfathers were pioneers in the state. He lived until he was about grown at Dade City and went to Miami. Four years later he went to Stetson university. He was pastor at Oviedo, Green Cove Springs, Mayo and Alachua, where he married. He was pastor at Milton and then went back to Green Cove Springs and did missionary work between Miami and Homestead, organizing the Baptist church at Perrine and Larkin, now South Miami, built a building at Milton, finished building at Green Cove Springs, built building at Perrine and first building at Larkin, pastorium and present building at Lemon City. Served several years as special representative on State Board for the city of Miami, several years has been secretary of associational executive committee, assisted in organization of two-thirds of churches of Miami Association. His wife has always been an important factor in the work with her husband. They have four children, a son, aged 17, three daughters, ages 15, 9 and 7 years. The older children take active part in the work.



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Should Read Every Line About Stetson on page 24 and tell your Friends

FLORIDA BAPTIST WITNESS

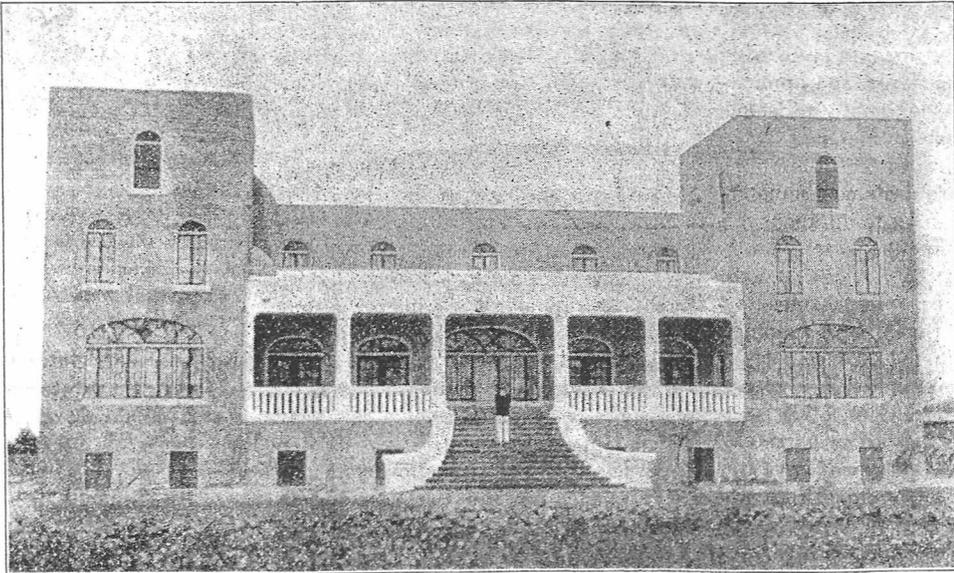
ORGAN OF THE BAPTISTS
OF FLORIDA

THE TESTIMONY OF THE LORD IS SURE, MAKING WISE THE SIMPLE

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, AUGUST 15, 1929

No. 33

Lemon City New Church at Miami



Oldest Church Organization on East Coast between Fort Pierce and Key West.
Started in 1900: Bought two acres for \$100.; sold old church building for \$25,000 in 1926;
Rev. J. B. Rodgers, Pastor for eleven years. — (Story on Page Three).

Lemon City Church, Miami, Oldest on the East Coast Between Ft. Pierce-Key West

The First Baptist Church of Lemon City, Miami, was organized May 6, 1896. It is the oldest Baptist church between Fort Pierce and Key West, preceding the incorporating of the city of Miami almost three months.

The first meeting was held in a building used as a meeting place of all denominations and also as a school house. The records show the following to have been charter members:

Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Stanton, W. J. Zumwalt and wife, E. H. Padgett and wife, John Moody, Hugh Latimer, Mrs. Mary L. Pierce, Mrs. Susie G. White, John J. Sear and Marion F. Sear. Brethren Latimer and John and Marion Sear are the only three of the above now living.

In June of 1896 the first covenant and business was held. A request was made to the Methodist for permission to hold services in their building. This request was granted. The trustees were also instructed to seek to secure a lot on which to build. The church also pledged itself to support missionary work and other denominational interests.

In November, 1897, Dr. W. E. Stanton and Brother Hugh Latimer attended the Indian River Association, at which time the church was received into that body. This association then extended from Titusville to Key West, a distance of about three hundred and seventy-five miles. This same year also a building committee was appointed to solicit funds for a building.

A Day's Journey to Miami. .

In those early days there were no rock roads nor automobiles. Everybody had either to walk or ride in wagons and buggies over sandy roads filled with palmettoes and rocks. From the Little River and Lemon City communities it took a whole day to go to Miami and return. Now both of these places are important residential and business sections of the city.

In 1900 the church bought a two-acre tract for \$100 on the little white road into Miami, now N. E. 2nd Ave.

In 1901 the church erected a building on this tract. Later the church sold off all but a small lot of this tract for almost nothing. Dr. Stanton preached at Lemon City at night every Sunday for \$250 per year. In November, 1901 the church had to give up its pastor as Miami called him for full time for \$600 per year, and he paid his own house rent.

From the records the following have been pastors: Dr. W. E. Stanton, E.



REV. J. B. RODGERS

A. Woodson, Rev. Ludwig, J. A. Edge, John Smith, D. T. Firor, J. H. Palmer and the present pastor who has been with the church for more than eleven years.

In 1918 the present pastor came to the field. The church had been through many discouraging experiences and the membership had dropped down to about thirty. They were considering seriously of disbanding.

Two conditions upon which he took the work were that the church should cease to receive aid from the board and extend the call indefinitely instead of annually. This they did. Two years later when it was necessary for the church to move to full time it received aid from the board for one

year. Since that time it has cared for itself.

In 1919 the church bought a lot in what is now beautiful Bayshore and built a parsonage.

Sold for \$25,000.

In 1925 the church sold its small church lot it had left for \$25,000 and bought three lots where the present building now stands. The first Sunday in May the church broke ground for the new building. We sold the first mortgage which is held on the old property to the late W. J. Bryan, receiving the check from him just two days before he left for Dayton, Tenn., for the famous Scopes trial. With this we started the work. Later we borrowed \$20,000.00. Services were held in the basement of the building the first Sunday in March, 1926. Three Sundays later we moved into the auditorium. Work had to be suspended on the building for lack of funds.

The hurricane of 1926 did about \$5,000 damage. This was repaired, the state board donating \$2,000.

Last year we took up negotiations with the Home Mission Board for a loan with which to refinance. The loan was granted and the papers executed the day Carnes left Atlanta, but we received no money. Through the influence and counsel of Dr. B. C. Henning we finally got the money. With \$20,000 we paid off more than \$24,000 debts and mortgage together, and finished the building.

Special mention should be made here of the splendid work of Brethren A. L. Hunter and F. S. McKendree of the building committee, who gave of their time and money and looked after the various details of the building.

We are doing the best we can now under the present financial depression.

(Continued on Page 22)

WHY GO TO COLLEGE

One of Series of Articles Specially prepared for the Witness By Leading Educators of the South.

By WILLIAM F. QUILLIAN,
President of Wesleyan College,
Macon, Ga.

The status of woman has entirely changed within the past quarter of a century. Today every avenue of service is open to her. Nearly one hundred years ago the first college for the higher education of women was established at Macon, Ga., having been chartered in 1836. Since that date hundreds of other institutions have been inaugurated for this specific work. Wesleyan, therefore has blazed the way in emphasizing the import-

ance of higher education for young women.

The young woman of the present day who fails to attend college will be handicapped in the race of life. It will broaden her personality culturally, it will enlarge her opportunities for service, and it will enable her to take a conspicuous place of leadership in her generation. Our teachers and mothers come out of our colleges and universities. For these and other reasons, it is of exceeding importance that our young women should be highly educated. "He who educates a son educates an individual; he who educates a daughter educates a home."

107 Market

5-3V-67

2-2v

July 2, 1970

The Reverend H. F. Parker
Miami Springs Baptist Church
378 Westward Drive
Miami Springs, Florida 33166

Dear Mr. Parker:

Enclosed is the copy of the article on J. B. Rodgers as I sent it to Nashville. I made a few changes, not many, and I hope it looks O.K. to you.

Many thanks for your good help and for doing it so quickly.

I think we made the deadline all right.

I look forward to receiving your tape. Meanwhile all best wishes.

Most sincerely,

Rollin S. Armour (L.R. 41)
Curator

RSA:jw
Enclosure 1 (one)

RODGERS, JOHN BETHEL, (b. Polk County,

Fla., Dec. 4, 1881 — son of a farmer; d.

Miami, Fla., Apr. 26, 1968. Buried Dade

Memorial Cemetery, Dade County, Fla.).

Church organizer, pastor, first director of

missions work for the Florida Baptist State

Board of Missions. Married Zula Fincher,

Apr. 2, 1911; children— John B., Jr.; Evelyn;

Martha Joyce; Betty. Licensured to the ministry

by First Church (now Central), Miami. He was

ordained in 1907 by First Church, DeLand. He

was a student at Stetson University in 1904

and attended Southern Baptist Theological

Seminary in 1916. The following year he began

mission work in Miami Baptist Association ex-

tending from West Palm Beach to Key West. He

was the prime organizer of several Miami area

churches, including First, South Miami (Larkin);

and First Perrine. He assisted in organizing

several other Miami churches: Stanton Memorial;

Allapattah; First, Hialeah; Seventy Ninth Street

(West Little River); Emmanuel (Faith); First,

North Miami; First, Hollywood; First, Dania;

Northwood, West Palm Beach; and churches

John Bethel Rodgers

in Lake Worth, Pahokee, Belle Glade, and South Bay. He pastored churches in Oviedo. Green Cove Springs, Mayo, Alachua, Milton, Bowling Green, and Panama City; he also served Lemon City (Now First Church), Miami, and Queens Park Church (now Lakeview), Miami. He has been described as "The greatest single Baptist servant in Southeast Florida in the earlier part of Twentieth Century." He said of himself: "I have often said, if I had a hundred lives to live over, I would give them all to the ministry of my Lord."

This, That and the Other

Robert D. McAllister Joins Staff of Killarney Church



Killarney Church, Winter Park, called Robert D. McAllister to be assistant to the pastor, in charge of the education program, May 16. Clayborn E. Landers is pastor.

McAllister, a native of Ohio, attended Eastern Baptist College, and is a graduate of Southern Seminary.

Before coming to Florida, he was pastor of First Church, Greenvale, Kentucky. He has served as pastor of both the Miller Memorial Church and Fairview Shores Church, Orlando, and for the past six years was pastor of University Church, Orlando. He also served as clerk of Wekiwa Association for eight years.

Mr. and Mrs. McAllister have two daughters.

Ordained to Gospel Ministry

Curtis Bowen, Jr. was ordained to the Gospel ministry April 7 by First Church, Masaryktown, and has accepted the call to be associate pastor of this church. Edmon Burgher, Jr. is the pastor.

Participating in the service were: J. M. Gilbreath, charge to the church; Millard Moore, charge to the candidate; Kenneth Frazier, ordination prayer; and Thomas P. Vohun, presentation of the Bible.

Bowen served in church work several years in Honduras.

Sirmans Resigns Pastorate

After a seven year, five month-pastorate at West Gate Church, West Palm Beach, Quimby Sirman has resigned, effective May 27.

During Sirman's ministry at West Gate Church 193 persons were baptized into the membership, the church put a new roof on the auditorium, installed all new windows and doors, bought a baby grand piano and new organ, and put a new air conditioner in the auditorium. A new education building to accommodate 300 and now valued at \$45,000 was begun and is two-thirds completed. The church is free of debt.

Total gifts to missions during Sirman's service were \$5,709, and total offerings for all causes, \$83,864.

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Old Providence Church Marks 136th Anniversary

Old Providence Church of Providence (14 miles south of Lake City) observed Homecoming on May 12, and marked the 136th year of this church's life.

Organized in 1832 as the Olustee Baptist Church, the name was changed to Old Providence in 1917 when a church was organized in Olustee, Florida and named Olustee Baptist Church. Thus, this church is one of the oldest Baptist churches in Florida.

Eugene Clayton is pastor.

Revival Reports

First Church, Baldwin, Evangelist Allen Higginbotham, Singer Frank Delrose, 10 for baptism, two by letter. J. W. Baillie, pastor.

Northside Church, DeLand, Evangelist Robert L. Hughes, Singer Fred Lane, eight for baptism, 12 by letter. R. Grady Snowden, interim pastor.

L. H. Losch is serving as interim pastor of Port St. Lucie Church, Ft. Pierce, a mission of First Church, Ft. Pierce. J. R. Brooks is Sunday school superintendent.

Greenville Church, Greenville, Evangelist Harold Harlee, 11 for baptism, three by letter. Thad Entzinger, pastor.

Long Avenue Church, Port St. Joe, Evangelist Sid Sample, Singer John Layman, nine for baptism, J. C. Odum is pastor.

Evangelist Harold Tallant of Daytona Beach, Wallace Memorial Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, 33 for baptism, seven by letter.

Mayo Church, Mayo, Evangelist Babb Adams, six for baptism, four by letter. Harold Harlee, pastor.

Northside Church, Miami Breaks Ground for Addition

Northside Church, Miami, James F. Brooks, pastor, broke ground in April for a new \$68,000 addition, and renovation of the sanctuary. Shown here at this service, from left, are: Jesse Kinney, D. A. Watson, Aubrey Ussery, Pastor Brooks, Kenny Hartgrove, Mrs. R. T. Franklin, R. T. Franklin, C. A. Taber, and Hudson White, Jr.

The new building will provide for four Nursery, two Beginner, and one Young People's depart-



Pioneer Miami Minister, John B. Rodgers, Dies

John B. Rodgers, 86, pioneer Miami minister, died April 26.

A native Floridian and graduate of Stetson University and Southern Seminary, he founded several churches in the state. In 1918 he became pastor of the first Baptist church in Dade County, Lemon City Church, which is now First Church, Miami.

Rodgers also established churches in Perrine and in what is now South Miami. Pastor of numerous churches throughout the state, his last pastorate before retirement in 1951 was at Queen's Park Church, 1947-51.

Funeral services were held at Miami Springs Church, where he was a member at the time of his death, on Sunday afternoon April 28.

Summer Youth Director

Curtis Tutterrow, a senior at Stetson University, is summer youth director at West Bradenton Church, Bradenton. T. E. Robinett is pastor.

West Bradenton is Tutterrow's home church. He is the first ministerial student from this church, and will continue his studies at Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville following his graduation from Stetson.

Ridgewood Church, Orange Park, Evangelist Pastor Aaron Singletary, Musicians the Lester Millers, 10 for baptism, one by letter, three commitments for full-time church-related service.

First Church, Chattahoochee, Evangelist Ernie Habacker, Singer Jimmy Hodges, 14 for baptism, four by letter. John R. Martin, pastor.

Pinecrest Church, Sanford, Evangelist Van Capps, Singer Eugene Shirley, 18 for baptism, eight by letter. Roy F. Black is pastor.

New Minister of Music at St. Johns Park Church

L. T. Fagan, Jr. has accepted the call to St. Johns Park Church, Jacksonville as minister of music. Harvey L. Duke is pastor. Fagan attended Baylor and Stetson, and has served churches in Florida, Wisconsin, Texas and Georgia. He recently was minister of music at Sherwood Forest Church of Dinsmore.



Mrs. Fagan is the former Nell Sanders of Jacksonville. They have a daughter, Sean.

Hart Accepts Trinity Call

Joseph L. Hart, formerly pastor of Westside Emmanuel Church, Bogalusa, Louisiana, is now the pastor of Trinity Church, Tampa.

Hart is a native of Ocala, and attended Baptist Bible Institute. He was connected with Winn-Dixie Company in Tampa prior to entering the ministry. The Harts have four children.

Licensed to Preach

Mack E. Luke was licensed to the Gospel ministry May 8, by Turkey Creek First Church, Plant City. Luke stated he felt led to serve God as a lay preacher.

He is the fourth man to be licensed to preach by this church within the last three years. James Fortinberry is pastor.

Bascom L. Sutton of Lakeland has been called as interim pastor of the Bloomingdale Church in Shiloh Association.

The deacons of Mt. Pisgah Church, Ft. Meade, have written the *Witness* office commending F. R. Rightmire for his four months of service to the church as interim pastor, during which time 14 members were added by baptism. Rightmire may be contacted at: Rt. 1, Box 102B, Polk City, Fla. 33868 (Phone: Winter Haven 372-1208).

Frank Corry, formerly pastor of Biltmore Church, Jacksonville, is available for supply service. Phone 768-9472, Jacksonville.

Urgent Notice

Enrollment in the Health Benefit Plan closes May 31. Applications with one month's dues must be in the Annuity Board Office, 511 North Akard, Dallas, Texas, 75201, not later than May 31. Application cards may be received at Blue Cross offices or from the Florida Annuity Representative, Phil Maxwell, 1105 Sarasota Drive, Tallahassee, Fla. 32301.

May 30, 1968

Tribute To Our Former Pastors

We wish to pay special tribute to God's Servants that served so faithfully in the vineyard of yesteryear.



REV. RODGERS

Rev. J. B. Rodgers came to Miami as a young man, and while serving as the youthful Sunday School Superintendent of the Lemon City Baptist Church, God laid His hand upon him and called him into the ministry.

Brother Rodgers went to Stetson University at De Land, and also took some training at Southern Seminary at Louisville.

In 1918 God again led Brother Rodgers to Lemon City Baptist Church, but this time as pastor and leader of the flock. He accepted the call to serve as pastor provided that the Church would become self-supporting. For several years we had depended upon aid from the State Mission Board for part of our support.

These were trying years for the pastor and people, as the membership had dropped to about thirty, and they were seriously considering disbanding; however, pastor and people kept the faith, and the membership began to grow. He led the church into adopting a "Six Point Record System" which was very similar to the one which we now use. He also led the church into the adoption of what was called a Central Finance System. It had been the custom for the Sunday School, the W. M. U. and the B. Y. P. U. and the church each to take their own offering, which of course, meant that many of the same people were dividing their tithes and offering into several directions.

It was through the efforts of Rev. Rodgers that we secured the property where the pastorium now stands. This had been the early location of the old Lemon City School, which was the forerunner of our present Miami Edison High School. Salvaged materials from the hurricane damaged old school building were used in much of the construction of the pastorium.

The early leaders of our Church along with Rev. Rodgers had a Vision of the need for the future, and in 1925, not having room for expansion at the Second Avenue location, decided to purchase property where our Church is now located.

Rev. Rodgers continued to serve as pastor until 1932, when he accepted a call to serve as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Alachua, Florida.

After serving as an interim pastor for many churches over the years, he retired from the active ministry in 1952. His heart and love was at our Church having given the prime of his life in service here, serving as pastor for the longest period of any former pastor. He is now a faithful member of our Church where he is always "On Call" to serve God in any way that he can. We thank God for such servants as Brother Rodgers.

FBC Miami, ⁶ Lemon City 196