

# Rev. Usher—He's His Own Severest Critic

By DICK EVANS  
Herald Religion Editor

**HARRY USHER**, a young man on fire, is a severe critic of the Rev. Harry J. Usher, the fiery young minister at **North Hialeah Baptist Church**.

"If a man is truthful with himself, then he recognizes his own weaknesses," said the 32-year-old minister who grew up in Miami.

"As a man, I can not help but wonder why God would entrust His divine plan to humans. The inconsistency of my own personality and of others called by God created grave doubts within my mind during college and the seminary days.

"But with maturity came the understanding that the divine call of God can help a man overcome his human frailties.

"A minister must learn to recognize his frailties. With the recognition must come growth. You must not excuse your frailties . . . only seek diligently for means to overcome them."

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**THE REV.** Harry Usher is equally demanding of his congregation.

"As a preacher I lack patience," he lamented. "I may not want to remove mountains today, just next week.

"I can not understand how Christians can remain in their homes on Sunday while the church of God goes to waste. We must recognize the presence of God in our lives and live up to our Christian responsibilities.

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"I can not understand how Christians can remain in their homes on Sunday while the church of God goes to waste. We must recognize the presence of God in our lives and live up to our Christian responsibilities.

"I can not understand how **Hialeah** can be called a community of churches. Sure, we have many fine churches in this area. But I do not sincerely feel that **Hialeah** is a community of church-going people — Sunday after Sunday.

"But this is not a criticism of **Hialeah**. Greater Miami is not the easiest place in the world to witness for Jesus Christ."

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**HARRY USHER**, the man, is a quiet man. He speaks softly and smiles frequently. He stands 5-8.

But, when Harry Usher the pastor, stands in the pulpit he appears 10 feet tall to many of his members.

"I don't know about this," said the Georgia native, "but many of my members have told me that I take on a different personality when I start preaching. I feel a fire to preach the word of God.

"I sincerely feel that my pulpit messages are the strongest part of my overall ministry. I constantly attempt to show and prove that Christ is sufficient for life and happiness.

**THE REV.** Mr. Usher lost his mother during childbirth in Lumpkin, Ga.

"I came to live with my aunt, Lucy George Usher, here in Miami when I was 11 years old," recalled the Rev. Mr. Usher.

"During my senior year at Miami High I felt a call to the ministry. It all came

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about when I was attending a revival at the Riverside Baptist Church.

"A missionary speaker challenged us to listen to God as if He were speaking to us. I felt that God was talking to me, but it took me several months to reach a decision and dedicate my life to full time Christian service."

In 1950 he enrolled at Stetson University. "It was here that I experienced most of my doubts," he added. "But God knew my weaknesses and gave me strength."

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**HE MARRIED** a fellow Riverside Baptist Church member, Marjorie Vaughan,

## Pastor Profile

in 1953 and the following year they headed for Louisville and the Southern Baptist Theology Seminary.

"I experienced three great years at the seminary. I was privileged to meet and talk with some of the finest preachers, teachers and missionaries in the world.

"And I benefitted from my first church. I would travel 80 miles every weekend to lead a small congregation in Southern Indiana. It was a rewarding experience.

"I was called by this church

(North Hialeah Baptist) in January of 1957 — four months before my graduation from the seminary.

"I did not want to accept the invitation. I felt that Christ was correct when He said 'a prophet is not without honor, save in his own country.'

"I was prejudiced against coming to Miami. I felt too many people knew me before I had been called by God to preach.

"But I felt an over-

whelming pull from God. I had my heart set on a small church in Alabama or Georgia. But I could not deny a pull to take over this church.

"I have never regretted my unconditional surrender. This is a wonderful congregation and this is a great life."

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**NORTH HIALEAH Baptist** has thrived under the Rev. Mr. Usher's leadership. Five new buildings have been completed and the congregation has jumped from 300 to 1,050.

The Usher family also has grown. Janell, a vivacious eight-year-old girl and John Mark, a Bible-toting five-year-old boy, like living in their father's long shadow.

# 1,100 Members, And Still Growing

**North Hialeah Baptist** Church, 5800 Palm Ave., is a good example of a church which is growing along with the community.

Started as a mission Sunday school of Riverside **Baptist** on Mother's Day 1952, the church today has almost 1,100 members.

They represent a cross section of the fast-growing **Hialeah** area and include airline personnel, business men and women and people working in the various industries of the area.

Because of the rapid growth, the educational building which also serves as a place of worship, is far outgrown. At present the congregation is planning to erect a church building seating around 1,500 people. Work on the project is expected to begin around the first of the year.

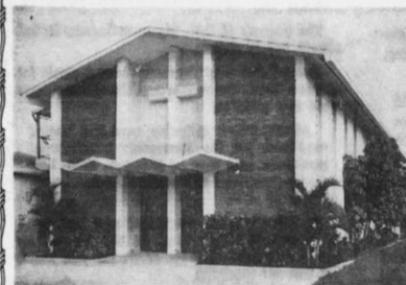
Four worship services are held each Sunday — at 8:15 and 11 a.m. and 5 and 7:30 p.m. A family fellowship hour follows the latter.

The mission was started under the direction of The Rev. Samuel B. Jordan of Riverside Church and was constituted into a full-fledged church Aug. 5, 1956.

The Rev. Harry J. Usher, pastor, came to the church in 1957 directly from the Southern **Baptist** Seminary at Louisville, Ky. He is a native Miamian and grew up in Riverside Church.

Assisting as minister of education is Ramsey Pollard Jr., son of Dr. Ramsey Pollard, pastor of Belleview **Baptist** Church of Memphis, Tenn. He joined the staff a year ago.

## Church Of The Week



**North Hialeah Baptist** Church

# Baptists Elect

## Rev. Usher

The **Rev. Harry J. Usher**, pastor of North Hialeah Baptist Church, was elected moderator of the Miami Baptist Association at the annual meeting of the body this week at Olympia Baptist Church.

He succeeds Walter Stokes, a layman of Central Baptist Church.

**Rev. Usher** is a native of Georgia. He is a graduate of Stetson University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He came to North Hialeah Church upon his graduation from the seminary in June 1957.

In the seven years he has served the church the membership has grown from 300 to 1,050.

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Bidding farewell to his congregation of eight years' standing tomorrow will be the **Rev. Harry J. Usher**, 34, energetic young pastor of North Hialeah Church, who will leave Monday for East Point, Ga., where he will become pastor of Headland Heights Church.

**He is a native of South Georgia but grew up in Miami, coming to the Hialeah church directly from the Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.**

During his ministry the congregation has grown from 600 to 1,300 and six new buildings have been added to the church layout.

While here **Rev. Usher** has been active in religious activities of the city. He has served as moderator of the Miami Baptist Association, president of the Baptist Pastors' Conference and a trustee of the Baptist Hospital. He has also served as pastor adviser to the Baptist Student Union at Dade Junior College.

He will be accompanied to Georgia by his wife, **Marjorie**, a Miamian, and their two young children.