

**Reese, Tullius Otto (T. O.)** (1878-1947) was born in North Carolina the son of Patterson and Rachel Reese. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Perry (1927-1931); Lake Mystic Baptist Church, Bristol (1945-1947); First Baptist Church, Sarasota, (1931-1934); First Baptist Church, Apalachicola (1941-1945). In 1934, Reese began his work as state evangelist for the Florida Baptist Convention, a position he served until 1941. Reese received a grant of one thousand dollars from the Florida Baptist Convention Mission Board for the establishment of a mission in the city of Bristol, on October 10, 1948 the First Baptist Church of Bristol, Florida was founded. He and his wife, Nancy Jane "Nannie" Benson Reese had five children.

The Tampa Times  
Fri, Feb 15, 1924 -Page 17

## Will Preach Here



REV. T. O. REESE.

REV. T. O. REESE.

## BAPTISTS WILL HOLD REVIVAL

Rev. T. O. Reese, Noted  
Preacher, Coming Here.

Evangelist **T. O. Reese**, of Marbury, Ala., will conduct special revival services in the Palm Avenue Baptist church, corner Florida and Palm avenues, beginning Sunday morning and continuing until March 1.

Dr. **Reese** is accompanied by Theo H. Farr, who will direct the singing. Mr. Farr possesses a trained baritone voice of rare quality and is known as an excellent director and soloist. He has been with Dr. **Reese** for more than two years.

Dr. **Reese** was for three years state evangelist in Tennessee, and for 13 years on the staff of the home mission board of the Southern Baptist convention. More than 10,000 persons have been received into churches in meetings conducted by Dr. **Reese**.

He is remembered by many as holding perhaps the most successful revival in the history of the Palm Avenue Baptist church, says Dr. A. M. Bennett, pastor.

"Dr. **Reese** is a modest, genial speaker, refined in face and pleasing in person, with a marked gift for winning souls to Christ," said Dr. Bennett this morning.

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Main and Adelia.  
 Sunday school 9:45 a. m. J. R. Spence, superintendent.  
**Rev. T. O. Reese**, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist church, Perry, Fla., will preach at the First Baptist church today at 11 a. m., and at 7:30 p. m. The morning subject will be: "The Ministry of Affliction." and at 7:30 p. m.: "The Question of This Age and Every Age."

Dr. Reese is one of the best known ministers of the south. For some years he was associated with the Home Mission Board and has preached in many of the leading churches from El Paso to Washington.

**REV. T. O. REESE**, D. D.



Pastor First Baptist church, Perry, Fla., who occupies pulpit of Sarasota Baptist church today.

Sermon theme, "The Greatest Need." This close about 11:30 a. m. 7 p. m.—Christian Topic, "What Is Expected of Good Citizens?" Scri 13:1-7. The society will Mr. and Mrs. Melton Mound street.

8 p. m.—No evening during the summer.

A most cordial invitation extended to all not only prize Rally but to all ices.

**CHURCH OF THE R (EPISCOPAL)**

Orange and Morrill s

**Rev. H. W. Weller.**

Nineteenth Sunday

Holy communion, 8

Church school, 9:30

Morning prayer and

a. m.

Young People's mee

**CHRISTIAN SCIENC**

Main street at East

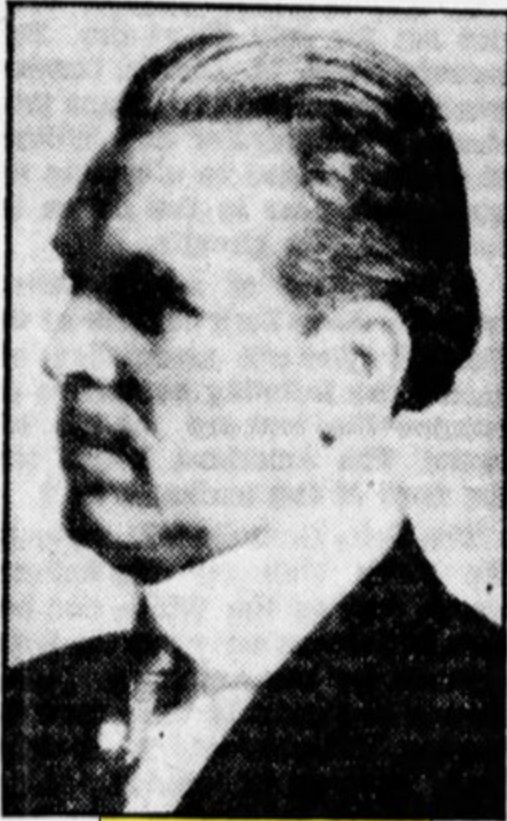
Sunday, 11 a. m.

"Are Sin, Disease Real?" is the subject son-Sermon in all Christ, Scientist, on tober 11.

The Golden Text is 67:1. "God be merc and bless us; and ca to shine upon us; t may be known upon e ing health among all

Among the citations prise the Lesson-Ser following from the B certain man was ther an infirmity thirty and Jesus saith unto him, thy bed, and walk. An ly the man was mad

## Ends Work Here



**REV. T. O. REESE**

Who recently resigned the pastorate of the First Baptist church here to accept the position of state evangelist for the Florida Baptist convention, will deliver his closing sermons at the local church today at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Dr. Reese returned to Sarasota Friday after conducting an evangelistical meeting in Charlotte, N. C. in which there were 37 additions to the church.

# REESE RESIGNS PASTORATE; TO TAKE NEW POST

The **Rev. T. O. Reese**, pastor of the First Baptist church here for the past two and one-half years, yesterday tendered his resignation to the congregation in a letter addressed to J. Paul Gaines, chairman of the board of deacons, and asked that it be made effective June 15, including a two-weeks vacation to start June 1.

The minister will accept the recently created post of state evangelist for the Florida Baptist convention and will enter upon his new duties within a short time. He said, in his letter of resignation, that he would fill the pulpit until June 1 or see that another minister was available.

In the letter the **Rev. Mr. Reese** told of the increase in church membership, saying that about 225 had been added to the membership rolls during his pastorate and that the Sunday school had reached an average of 224 each week for a time. He also commented on the fact that the church collections have totaled about \$10,500 in his time here.

Just who will replace the incumbent has not been decided. The board of deacons will meet on May 7.

### To Conduct Revival Services



LAKE WORTH—The Rev. T. O. Reese, D. D., Jacksonville, evangelist and a member of the Florida Baptist State Mission Board, will begin a two weeks revival service at the First Baptist Church this morning at 11 o'clock. He will preach again tonight and each morning at 10:30 o'clock, except Monday, and each evening at 7:45 o'clock. Dr. Reese preached here a year ago at a revival service.

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**REV. T. O. REESE WILL ADDRESS Y. M. C. A. MEETING NEXT SUNDAY**

**Is Considered One of Ablest Evangelists In South—All Men Invited to Be Present.**

Members of the committee in charge of the mass meeting for men held every Sunday afternoon at the Young Men's Christian Association building are gratified that they have secured the services of **Rev. T. O. Reese**, considered one of the ablest evangelists of the South, at the meeting next Sunday.

**Rev. Reese** was born and reared on a farm near Asheville. He has had both a college and seminary training and splendid success in the ministry. He is said to be not only a pleasant and impressive speaker, but a man of more than ordinary ability as a preacher of the Gospel. "His arraignment of popular sins that so destroy and paralyze the spiritual life of Christian people and emasculate the power of the churches is terrific and his appeal to the wondering and backslidden is tender and effective."

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[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/89186975/tullius\\_otto-reese](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/89186975/tullius_otto-reese)

Tullius Otto Reese

Birth 6 Oct 1878

Death 3 Oct 1947 (aged 68)

Burial Lake Mystic Cemetery Bristol, Liberty County, Florida, USA

In 1947, Dr. T. O. Reese, pastor of the Lake Mystic Baptist Church, began the preliminary work for starting a mission in the city of Bristol. He received a grant of one thousand dollars from the

Florida Baptist Convention Mission Board for the establishment of a mission in the city of Bristol, on October 10, 1948 The First Baptist Church of Bristol, Florida was founded.

#### Family Members

##### Spouse

Nancy Jane "Nannie" Benson Reese 1879–1967

##### Children

Claxton McKinley Reese 1900–1947

Cleo Elizabeth Reese Hall 1903–1970

Leila Reese Cannon 1905–2001

Alyne Sadie Reese Long 1907–1976

Alta Ruth Reese Jerman 1912–1990

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## This, That And The Other

Let Us Break the Bread of Life Together  
and  
Share a Spiritual Feast  
in the

Old-fashioned Revival  
To be Held at  
Liberty Baptist Church  
Jacksonville

Our State Secretary, Dr. John Maguire,  
will conduct the services.  
Sept. 23-30, 1945 8:00 P. M.

Rev. James T. Barber, pastor of the  
Riverside Baptist Church, Fort Myers,  
has resigned to enter the Southern Bapt-  
tist Seminary, Louisville, Ky., in Septem-  
ber.

Dr. Raymond C. Kanne has accepted  
the pastorate of the First Baptist Church,  
Eau Gallie, and is now on the field. Dr.  
Kanne is a graduate of Temple Univer-  
sity, Philadelphia, Pa., and Crozier The-  
ological Seminary. He has been in the  
pastorate for twenty years. A Daily Va-  
cation Bible School was conducted re-  
cently with an enrollment of 71, with  
an average attendance of 52.

Rev. W. H. Edwards has resigned the  
pastorate of the Tenth Avenue Baptist  
Church, Tampa, his resignation to take  
place November 1. He has been pastor  
of this church for nearly ten years. The  
church is now debt free and thousands of  
dollars have been spent on repairs and  
seating. There have been over 300 bap-  
tisms in these ten years and gifts to mis-  
sions have increased more than two hun-  
dred per cent. Rev. Edwards will be  
available for evangelistic meetings or  
supply work after November 1.

Captain William B. Rittenhouse, Jr.,  
who received his promotion from first  
lieutenant September 1, has been re-  
lieved from active duty with the AAF  
and will conduct services at the Southside  
Baptist Church, Miami, during the ab-  
sence of his father, the pastor, who is  
serving as chaplain overseas. Captain  
Rittenhouse has been awarded the Dis-  
tinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star,  
Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters,  
the Purple Heart and the Distinguished  
Unit Citation. He was captured in May,  
1944, while on a mission to Ploesti, Ru-  
mania, and acted as chaplain in the Ger-  
man prison camp until his release. He  
has enrolled in the University of Miami  
and will attend classes there to complete  
his college education. He has previously  
attended Stetson University and Brewton  
Parker Junior College, Mt. Vernon, Ga.,  
where he studied theology. His wife is  
the former Nell Cryder, daughter of Rev.  
and Mrs. Leroy Cryder, formerly of Fort  
Myers.

Dr. T. O. Reese, who has been pastor  
of the First Baptist Church of Apalachi-  
cola for more than two years, has moved  
to his home at Bristol, Fla. He preaches  
at the Lake Mystic Church two Sundays  
each month and gives the other two Sun-  
days to evangelistic work. He has re-  
cently conducted successful meetings at  
Phil Campbell, Ala., and at Providence

Church at Grand Ridge, Fla. On No-  
vember 4 he goes to the First Church,  
Starkeville, Miss.

Dr. Homer G. Lindsay, pastor of the  
First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, has  
recently conducted an eight-day meeting  
with the First Baptist Church of Trenton,  
Tenn., in which there were 30 additions  
to the church, 25 of them for baptism.  
Among those who attended the meeting  
was the 94 year old father of Dr. M. E.  
Dodd. Dr. Paul Wieland is the popular  
and successful pastor.

Rev. W. L. Rollins has resigned as Re-  
gional Missionary of the Ocala area under  
the Florida Baptist Convention and has  
accepted the pastorate of the First Baptist  
Church at Frostproof, Fla.

A definite, planned program of church  
improvement is under way at the First  
Baptist Church, Ocala, where Rev. Mal-  
colm B. Knight is the pastor. A new  
sign identifies the church and a new side-  
walk at the west entrance is helping  
keep the building cleaner. Much paint-  
ing and redecorating has been done to  
improve the different departments of the  
Sunday School.

Mr. Elmer F. Bailey, Educational Di-  
rector of the First Baptist Church, Jack-  
sonville, is leading them this week in a  
great inside enlargement campaign. The  
church now has almost \$100,000 cash and  
government bonds for their proposed  
Educational Building with central heat-  
ing and air condition for both buildings.  
The estimated cost is \$125,000; construc-  
tion will begin as soon as material is  
available.

Rev. M. N. Pearson of Branford did  
the preaching in a revival with the Mt.  
Pisgah Church in the Suwannee Asso-  
ciation from August 27 to September 2.  
Rev. O. G. Owen, pastor of the church,  
led the singing. There were seven pro-  
fessions of faith. The last Sunday night  
the people came from Mt. Pisgah to the  
First Church, Branford, for the final  
meeting. The building was filled almost  
to capacity and one more came forward  
to accept Christ.

The Evergreen Baptist Church in the  
Beulah Association has just conducted a  
revival meeting with Pastor O. G. Owens  
leading the singing, and Rev. Austin Mc-  
Elroy, pastor of the Philadelphia Baptist  
Church, Live Oak, doing the preaching.  
There were two additions by baptism.

Dr. James F. Loomis, son of the late  
Rev. H. F. Loomis, former pastor of the  
First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, is  
taking over the practice of Dr. J. L.  
Mathis, optometrist, in Jacksonville. Dr.  
Loomis has served for the last three years  
in the Medical Department of the United  
States Army.

Rev. W. L. Spears of Bradenton sup-  
plied the pulpit of the Second Baptist  
Church, Sarasota, recently in the absence  
of the pastor, Rev. Lawrence E. Hutto.



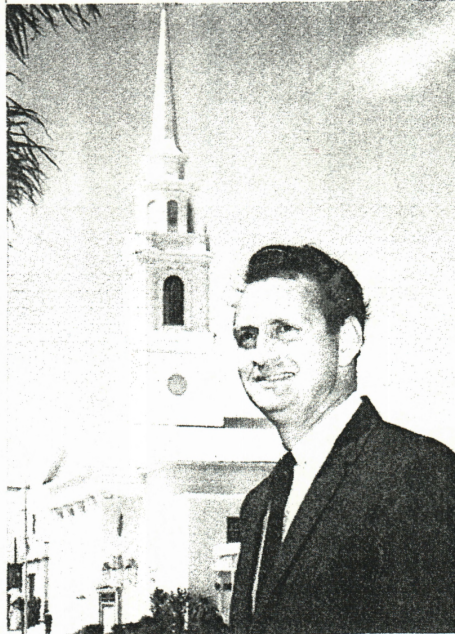
REV. J. K. HUTCHINGS

Rev. J. K. Hutchings, pastor of the  
Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, Jackson-  
ville, has resigned to accept the pastorate  
of the First Baptist Church, Hiawassee,  
Ga. He has been pastor at Euclid Ave.  
for the past nine years. For the past  
three years the average has been one  
member a Sunday in additions. Forty  
new members have joined the church  
since April of this year. A lot for an  
educational building has been purchased  
and paid for during the last two years  
and approximately \$6,600.00 is on hand  
for this new building. Mr. Hutchings is  
greatly beloved by the pastors of Jack-  
sonville and over the state, and will be  
sorely missed by all who know him.

Dr. W. E. Denham began his third year  
as pastor of the First Baptist Church,  
Miami, on September 2. Dr. Denham  
preached his first sermon as pastor of  
this church on September 5, 1943. Dur-  
ing these two years the church has re-  
tired its building debt, the budget has  
been substantially increased; the church  
membership has grown and the church  
building has been redecorated. A build-  
ing has also been erected for the Or-  
chard Villa Mission which is sponsored  
by the church. Dr. Denham served on  
the faculty of Baptist Bible Institute, as  
professor of Old Testament in Hebrew  
and English for several years. As an  
expression of appreciation for their loyal  
service, the church presented Dr. and  
Mrs. Denham with a silver tray.

Rev. W. H. Edwards, pastor of the  
Tenth Avenue Baptist Church, Tampa, did  
the preaching in a revival with the  
Bethel Church near Humboldt, Tenn.,  
where he was pastor while attending  
Union University some years ago. There  
were 31 additions by baptism, several  
reconsecrations and rededications. He is  
to be in a meeting with the Royal Street  
Baptist Church, Jackson, Tenn., in No-  
vember.

# FBC, Sarasota



PASTORS	
1902 - 1967	
P. O. Miller	1902-1905
H. H. Norris	1905-1908
D. R. MacGregor	1908
J. H. Tharp	1909
E. J. Barber	1910
T. J. Sparkman	1911
H. A. Goering	1912
C. H. Ferrell	1913
S. G. Mullins	1914
J. R. Henry	1914-1918
A. J. Beck	1919-1925
J. S. McLemore	1925-1926
Stewart Long	1927-1928
J. P. Currin	1929-1930
<b>T. O. Reese</b>	<b>1931-1934</b>
Andrew Caraker	1934-1939
Claude Ammerman	1940-1942
H. C. Wayman	1943-1949
W. R. Hamilton	1949-1965
Emmett C. Johnson, Jr.	1965

Sixty-five years ago our Baptist predecessors brought into being a new church in the beautiful city of Sarasota . . . A church conceived by the spirit of God and established for the purpose of leading men to accept Christ as Saviour and to grow in His likeness for a lifetime.

And now in 1967, we find ourselves continuing in this precise ministry in a much larger Sarasota, which possesses a more complicated society with people from all walks of life, all points of view, and from all continents of the world. As we worship our Lord on this nineteenth day of March 1967, we pause to give praise and thanksgiving to God for His guidance through these years and to pay tribute to those who sacrificed and served that we might continue toward even "greater works" for our Lord.

Those living with God and those here with us who have worked for Christ and given of themselves and their means have demonstrated in rugged realism the impact of togetherness in the cause of Christ. Therefore, it behooves us to rededicate ourselves to the task which was theirs and the task which continues to be our . . . that we, as members of our beloved First Baptist Church so live, so preach, so teach, so give, so serve, and so build that those in future years can accomplish even "greater things" for our Lord through our Church.

*Emmett C. Johnson*

Reese, A. V.....	Venice, 6 mos.....	Southwest ..	150.00
Ridenour, H. E.....	Fairbanks, Windsor, 3 mos.....	Santa Fe River.....	122.00
Rish, C. G.....	Brd. Branch, Wetappo.....	West Florida .....	60.00
Rowe, A. M.....	New Hopeful.....	Middle Florida .....	50.00
Safriet, J. E.....	Palm Valley.....	Jacksonville ..	60.00
Saunders, E. C.....	Venus.....	Orange Blossom ..	60.00
Smith, E. Lee.....	Maitland.....	Wekiva ..	150.00
Spears, W. L.....	LaCrosse.....	Santa Fe River.....	120.00
Stewart, C. O.....	Seventh Ave., 3 mos.....	Pensacola Bay .....	25.00
Taylor, A. W.....	Deerfield, 5 mos.....	Miami ..	62.50
Trice, J. E.....	Bay Haven, 10 mos.....	Southwest ..	150.00
Waller, L. F.....	Faith, 8 mos.....	Miami ..	80.00
Waller, L. F.....	Safety Harbor, 4 mos.....	Pinellas County ..	50.00
Ward, T. F.....	Bruce.....	Graves ..	30.00
Wilcox, A. M.....	Live Oak, Damascus.....	Holmes County .....	80.00
Wilkinson, W. R.....	Satsuma and Francis Mission.....	St. Johns River.....	66.00
Womble, A. B.....	Wausau, 9 mos.....	West Florida .....	27.00
Williams, W. H.....	Molino, 9 mos.....	Pensacola Bay .....	37.44

Every Missionary Pastor sends in a quarterly report of the work accomplished on his field. These reports are recorded in a book kept for the purpose, and the following table gives a combined report of their labors for the year 1934. Of course, cold figures do not reveal the heart aches and struggles of the faithful men of God who travel many miles, in good weather or bad, and who many times have only a handful of people to greet them in the simple little building, poorly furnished, that shelters the little flock that worships there.

This table shows the combined work accomplished by our missionary force during 1934.

#### REPORT OF MISSIONARY PASTORS

Weeks of Labor .....	2,603
Sermons and Addresses Delivered.....	5,557
Prayer and Other Religious Meetings Attended.....	3,369
Baptisms ..	613
Received by Letter .....	346
Received by Restoration .....	93
Miles Traveled .....	119,351
Number of Religious Visits Reported.....	13,396
Pages of Tracts Distributed.....	111,949
Bibles and Testaments Given Away.....	352
Found Families Without Bibles.....	150
Collected for Missions .....	\$1,840.86
Collected for Church Buildings.....	4,406.59
Church Houses Begun .....	8
Church Houses Completed and Repaired.....	22
Sunday Schools Organized .....	17
B. Y. P. U.'s Organized.....	13
W. M. S.'s Organized.....	6

#### OUR EVANGELISTIC DEPARTMENT

We rejoice over the glorious work accomplished by our State Evangelistic Leader, Dr. T. O. Reese. This work in its beginning was made possible by the liberal gift of our friend and brother, W. C. Wells, formerly of Madison. This was a memorial gift in honor of his sainted wife, who but recently passed to her reward. It guaranteed half the salary of the evangelist. The other half was underwritten by the State Mission Board, which in turn expected the

churches benefiting by the services of Brother Reese to make offerings to an evangelistic fund, looking toward the further enlargement of this department of the work.

Dr. Reese renders his own report, which is made a part of this report, and printed below. We are glad to be able to say that the brethren and churches have everywhere shown their approval of the creation of this department. Since entering upon his duties June 1st, Dr. Reese has had more invitations than he could possibly fill. He has gone to the assistance of small churches in the country as well as the larger churches in the cities. The Lord has blessed the work from the beginning. Scores of precious souls have been saved, and the churches have enjoyed gracious revivals. The collections have been all that could have been expected. Counting Brother Wells' gift, the work has been self sustaining.

Dr. Reese's report, as follows, gives the visible results accomplished:

#### REPORT OF STATE EVANGELIST, DR. T. O. REESE, FOR SEVEN MONTHS, BEGINNING JUNE FIRST AND ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST

Evangelism is basic, vital, fundamental. Back of all of our denominational enterprises is evangelism. Our marvelous growth as a denomination is due to the fact that we have put evangelism to the fore. There have been short periods when soul-winning has not been given its rightful place and these times have been marked by a letting down all along the line. We must not only be evangelical, but evangelistic also. The church or the denomination that is not evangelistic will not long remain evangelical.

In his great address on evangelism, when the Department of Evangelism of the Home Board was launched, Dr. B. H. Carroll said: "The stream of contributions so badly needed must flow from rocks smitten by the rod of evangelism." And even Dr. Fosdick said some months ago, in an address over the air, "The only thing that can save this generation from being swept away by the tide of unbelief and irreligion is a true revival."

I have long believed in denominational evangelism. It is far better, I think, for the evangelist to work under the direction of either a State or General Board. For three years I was with the Tennessee Board and for thirteen years I was on the Home Board Staff.

For six or eight years evangelism has been running on a "flat," but the indications are that it is coming back. Of this we are glad, for soul-winning is the big task of our churches. We are first to "make disciples" and then "teach them" for aggressive kingdom service.

This important phase of our state work was launched, it would seem, in answer to prayer. Unknown to the Board the evangelist had been praying that a way might open for him to re-enter the field to which he feels called and in which he has so long and successfully labored. Brother W. C. Wells for more than a year had been praying that he might see his way financially to make the re-entering of the field possible. The Board had been praying for the needed funds and to be led to the right man. So one day Mr. Wells walked into Dr. Brittain's office and suggested that if the Board would put me in the field that he would pay one-half of the salary. It is now well known to our brethren that the work was made possible by the liberality of this noble layman, who established "The Grace Terry Fund" in memory of his beloved departed wife, who was so deeply interested in missions and evangelism.

It was announced April 17th that I had been unanimously elected as State Evangelist and would begin my work June 1st, and before I had opened my first meeting I had in hand enough invitations to carry me to January 1st. I accepted the invitations almost entirely in the order in which they came. Many of these invitations came from purely mission points—some of them the most difficult in the State, if not in the entire South. Over half of the churches assisted were located in villages or in the open country. Some of the churches were in good towns, but only two were in cities and these churches were very weak numerically and financially. But notwithstanding the work was almost entirely in weak, struggling churches, the Board has not been out anything over and above the amount given by the churches and by Mr. Wells.

The evangelist has not spared himself, but has worked incessantly, taking practically no rest and going home only four times in seven months. My itemized report is as follows:

Weeks of labor .....	38
Sermons preached .....	385
Addresses delivered .....	10
Prayer and other religious meetings attended.....	40
Number of conversions .....	269
Number of consecrations and reclamations.....	175
Number received by baptism .....	188
Number received by letter and statement.....	73
Total number received into churches.....	260
Religious visits .....	110
Miles traveled (estimated) .....	4,500
Pages of tracts distributed (estimated).....	50,000
Money raised for pastors, singers, etc.....\$	250.00
Collected for evangelism .....	879.81
Salary received from Board (seven months).....	1,400.00

A number have been led to tithe and a number of subscriptions have been secured for the Witness and many other things accomplished not here enumerated.

#### OUR STUDENT WORK

The work among our students at the State universities is very near and dear to our hearts. We wish all our Baptist boys and girls could go to Stetson, where they could receive religious training in a religious environment. But as long as there are practically a thousand students in these State institutions from Baptist homes, we feel it incumbent upon us to provide some sort of religious program for them. We must hold these young people to our Baptist faith at any cost.

Brother John Hall Jones, located at Gainesville, is our State Secretary, and must divide his time with our student secretaries at Tallahassee, State College for Women, and our own Stetson University. Besides this, Brother Jones must visit the other schools of our State at intervals, where Baptist groups may be found.

Miss Katherine Rawls has wrought well at Tallahassee. She has a splendid group of young ladies well organized, who under her influence attend church and take active part in the local activities. Our Secretaries at both places have succeeded in leading the lost to Christ, and enlisting large groups of them in the work of the churches and the denomination.

Miss Beatrice Priester at Stetson is greatly appreciated by both student body and faculty. Under her wise and spiritual leadership the students develop into fine Christian characters, ready for active service for the Master.

# FLORIDA BAPTIST ANNUAL

1935 4

CONTAINING THE  
Proceedings of the Seventy-Third  
Session  
( EIGHTIETH YEAR )

HELD AT

**First Baptist Church**  
De Land Florida

JANUARY 15-16-17, 1935

TOGETHER WITH  
PROCEEDINGS WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNI  
HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL TABLES  
BOARDS OF THE CONVENTION  
DENOMINATIONAL DIRECTORY  
ASSOCIATIONAL DIRECTORY  
DIRECTORY OF MINISTERS AND THEIR P. O. ADDRESSES

NEXT SESSION—Place of Meeting, Arcadia.

TIME—Tuesday, January 14, 15 and 16, 1936.

Preacher, Annual Sermon—D. F. Sebastian, Plant City.

Alternate—B. F. Green, Jacksonville.

## Dr. T. O. Reese, 69

BRISTOL, Fla., Oct., 4.—(AP)—A widely known Southern Baptist Dr. T. O. Reese, 69, died last night at a Dothan, Ala., hospital just a few hours after he suffered a heart attack at his home here.

Dr. Reese, author of "Unpardonable Sin" and "Amen, Brother," was for 12 years associated with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He also served as pastor at Perry, Sarasota and Apalachicola, Fla.

A native of Madison County, N.C., Dr. Reese attended Mars Hill College, N.C., Washington College in Tennessee and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Funeral services will be held here tomorrow afternoon.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Nan Reese, and six daughters.

# T O Reese

in the 1940 United States Federal Census

1940

Detail

Source

Name	T O Reese
Age	61
Estimated Birth Year	abt 1879 [abt 1879]
Gender	Male
Race	White
Birthplace	North Carolina
Marital Status	Married
Relation to Head of House	Head
Home in 1940	DeLand, Volusia, Florida
Map of Home in 1940	DeLand, Volusia, Florida
Street	Woodland Boulevard
House Number	308
Farm	No
Inferred Residence in 1935	Sarasota, Sarasota, Florida
Residence in 1935	Sarasota, Sarasota, Florida
Resident on farm in 1935	No
Sheet Number	3A
Number of Household in Order of Visitation	94
Occupation	Evangelist
House Owned or Rented	Rented
Value of Home	45
Attended School or College	No
Highest Grade Completed	College, 5th or subsequent year
Hours Worked Week Prior to Census	56
Class of Worker	Wage or salary worker in private work
Weeks Worked in 1939	52
Income	2400
Income Other Sources	No

Neighbors

[View others on page](#)

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
T O Reese	61	Head
Nancy J Reese	60	Wife
Joy Reese	20	Daughter
Otto Reese	18	Son
Sybil Davis	10	Granddaughter
Dollie Dease	17	Lodger

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White

North Carolina

Married

Head

DeLant, Volusia, Florida

DeLant, Volusia, Florida

Wintersville, Mississippi

Yes

No

Bartholomew, Tennessee, Middle

Bartholomew, Tennessee, Middle

No

3A

54

Evangelist

Rented

45

No

College, 5th or subsequent year

56

Wage or salary worker in private work

62

3400

No

# Tullus O Ruse

in the 1910 United States Federal Census

1910

Detail

Source

Name	Tullus O Ruse [Tullus O Reese] [Reese]
Age in 1910	31
Birth Date	1879 [1879]
Birthplace	North Carolina
Home in 1910	Civil District 6, Davidson, Tennessee, USA
Sheet Number	5a
Street	Noblesville Road
Race	White
Gender	Male
Relation to Head of House	Head
Marital Status	Married
Father's Birthplace	North Carolina
Mother's Birthplace	North Carolina
Native Tongue	English
Occupation	Minster
Industry	Baptist Church
Employer, Employee or Other	Wage Earner
Home Owned or Rented	Rent
Farm or House	House
Able to read	Y
Able to Write	Y
Enumeration District Number	0095
Years Married	14
Out of Work	N
Number of Weeks Out of Work	0
Enumerated Year	1910
Neighbors	View others on page

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
Tullus O Ruse	31	Head
Name J Ruse	30	Wife
Claxton M Ruse	10	Son
Cleo E Ruse	7	Daughter
Leeida H Ruse	5	Daughter
Aline Ruse	3	Daughter
Golden B Ruse	0	Daughter
Minne L Smithson	33	Boarder

Reece misspelled  
by enumerator



# LEGACY

*Our Mission: Researching, preserving and promoting the Legacy of Florida Baptists*

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*LEGACY, as the monthly newsletter of the Florida Baptist Historical Society, has as its mission to highlight the legacy forged by the people and events in Florida Baptist history. During 2026, the LEGACY monthly issues will feature brief personal profiles of those men and women whom we call:*

*“Florida Baptists’ Heroes of the Faith.”*

Evangelism has been a standard of Florida Baptist doctrine and practice. The challenge for evangelism – based upon the New Testament directive of the Great Commission – primarily has been the responsibility of the individual Christian and the local church. The featured Heroes of the Faith for April are the only two individuals who have been designated as “state evangelist”: Kinsey Chambers and T. O. Reese.

### **Kinsey Chambers**

“I have travelled 1,688 miles, preached 68 sermons, delivered 11 exhortations, made 13 Sabbath School addresses, also delivered 18 addresses in presenting the claims of the Baptist Convention . . . Made 54 family visits, aided in constituting one church and baptized seven,” wrote Rev. Kinsey Chambers in his 1873 report as state evangelist to the Florida Baptist State Convention. Chambers made similar reports during the next four years while serving the state convention. Chambers is credited with baptizing over 500 persons during his ministry.

Kinsey Chambers (b. 1814; d. 1889) was a Milledgeville, Georgia, native who, at the age of 18, made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized in the Mount Olive Baptist Church. Six years later, responding to the call of God to enter the preaching ministry, Chambers was ordained in 1839. The first church he served was the Beron Baptist Church in Camden County, Ga.

Chambers married his first wife, Minerva Ann Simpson (b. 1836; d. 1848). The couple had five children. The Chambers family moved to the Florida Territory in 1845 (the year Florida achieved statehood) and settled in Columbia County. Soon after settling in Florida the couple had their fifth child in 1848 and Minerva experienced an untimely death.

Chambers itinerant preaching circuit resulted in his organizing and serving as the first pastor of the Ephesus Baptist Church at King's Ferry (in present day Nassau County).

He returned to Milledgeville, Ga., where he met and married Martha O. Martin (b. 1829; d. 1900). Between 1857 and 1871 the couple had nine children. In addition to being a farmer to provide for his growing family, Chambers continued his bi-vocational ministry each weekend.

By 1859, Chambers helped constitute the Elim Church in Fort White, Fla., where he was subsequently called to serve as pastor from 1862 to 1865. He also served as parttime pastor of the Falling Creek Baptist Church, Lake City, from 1859 to 1872. Chambers was instrumental in the formation of the Santa Fee Missionary Baptist Association in 1857. He was enlisted to serve as the association's domestic missionary and was responsible for the starting of eight churches in a single year.

Subsequently Chambers was enlisted to serve as the statewide evangelist for the Florida Baptist State Convention, a post he held from 1873 to 1877. During those years Chambers served concurrently as pastor for six part-time churches – Bethlehem Church at Lake City; Deep Creek and Sharon Churches in Callahan; Ephesus and Hebron Churches at King's Ferry and the Mount Pleasant Church at Wellborn. A biographer wrote that Chambers was “strong in the gospel and a thorough Baptist.”

### **Evangelism Options Attempted**

Nearly three decades passed before Florida Baptists and Southern Baptists began to recognize the need for more intentional evangelization efforts towards spiritually lost persons. **Up until this time, since the late nineteenth century, the promotion of evangelism -- a staple of Baptist doctrine and practice – had been entrusted to appointed committees on evangelism.** During the decade of the 1920s, the Florida Baptist Convention employed a one-half dozen pastors to serve as part-time “Enlistment-Evangelists.” Their task was to organize churches, conduct evangelistic crusades and revivals, as well as “assist pastors and their churches over the many obstacles that retard their growth.” Unfortunately, by December 1929, Executive Secretary C. M. Brittain reported that the evangelism effort had been discontinued.

While many Florida Baptists agreed to the need and value of a Florida staff evangelist to assist local churches, the financial crisis experienced by the Convention in the late 1920s and early 1930s kept the dream from being realized. Finally, the State Board of Missions recommended and the State Convention approved in 1933 a proposal to employ a person to give leadership to “evangelism and enlistment.”

### **T. O. Reese**

In April 1934, C. M. Brittain reported in the *Florida Baptist Witness* that the “Lord has come to our assistance to make this work possible.” A Jacksonville layman, named W. C. Wells apparently was led by God to contribute the needed financial resources to underwrite for one year at least one-half of the salary of a state evangelist. The State Board jumped at the proposal, agreed to find the additional funding for the salary and began the search for the right man to serve as state evangelist.

Surprisingly, the State Board did not have to look any further than Southwest Florida to find its state evangelist prospect. **Serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church, Sarasota, was one of the nation’s leading evangelists – T. O. Reese.** In his statewide convention assignment Reese became a source of encouragement and progenitor of evangelistic emphasis for the ensuing seven years of his service.

Prior to the Sarasota pastorate (1931 – 1934), Reese had successfully served four years (1927 – 1931) as pastor of First Baptist Church, Perry. Yet, his reputation as an evangelist was more notable and widely known. The North Carolina native was trained and educated at Mars Hill College, Washington College, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



**Tullius O. Reese (b. 1878; d. 1947) formerly served as state evangelist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention and later served 13 years as a staff evangelist with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Through his mass evangelism crusades Reese claimed to have led between 16,000 and 18,000 people to make a profession of faith in Christ.**

During Reese’s Florida convention service, on average each year he reportedly delivered over 600 sermons and recorded between 550 and 700 conversions to faith in Christ. As a result of action by messengers to the January 1941, annual State Convention meeting, the position of statewide evangelist was eliminated and a new Department of Promotion for evangelism was authorized. Reese went to serve as pastor for churches in Apalachicola and Lake Mystic Church in Bristol.

“He is a seasoned evangelist but has had sufficient experience as a pastor to know how to sympathize with the pastor and help him solve his problems,” Brittain wrote in the *Witness*.

[**RESOURCES:** Florida Baptist Convention *Annuals*, 1873, 1875 and 1876, 1877; C.M. Brittain, “Kingdom Affairs in Florida,” *Florida Baptist Witness*, April 26, 1934; also see Florida Baptist *Annual* 1934 – 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1940, and 1941; Florida Baptist Historical Society files.]

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