

## **Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection**

**This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.**

The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist Witness* and other news publications. Other resources include books, historical journal articles and church histories that are cited as documentation for the biography.

Visit our website at [FloridaBaptistHistory.org](http://FloridaBaptistHistory.org)

Tony Salmeron (1960-2020) was a native of El Salvador. He served as pastor of Iglesia Bautista Central at Central Baptist Church, Ocala. Salmeron and his wife, Mercedes had three daughters.

Tony Salmeron always thought of others above himself. His last hours were no different, as he told his family he loved them and reminded them to rejoice his entry into heaven.

The Ocala pastor and mental health counselor died July 2, 2020, from complications of COVID-19. He was 60.

A native of El Salvador, he and his wife, Mercedes, came to Florida in 1984 with the mission of establishing Hispanic churches.

They eventually settled in Ocala. For more than a decade, he served as pastor of the Iglesia Bautista Central at Central Baptist Church. He also operated Christian Counseling Associates, with a focus on marital counseling.

He helped a lot of marriages that were in trouble. “I have received a lot of messages (since his passing) from people that I don’t even know,” said his wife. “As a mental health counselor, you don’t share that information, even with your wife. But now I am hearing from people telling me how he helped them rebuild their family, and they are really thankful.”

Rebeca Salmeron-Kelly, one of his three daughters, said her father was one of the sweetest people she’s ever known.

“He was really funny and a very positive person,” she said. “He always saw the good in people and their potential.”

Salmeron started having difficulty breathing, but his other symptoms were mild. A test confirmed he had COVID-19. An asthma sufferer, he went into the hospital for treatment of the breathing issue. But an undiagnosed heart condition caused a heart attack, and his condition deteriorated.

“Something that he always emphasized was not to be afraid of death,” said daughter Amanda Stone. “In looking at his life, that is something we could see he lived by. What he believed was so real that he was not afraid, even in those last moments.”

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*<https://www.ocala.com/story/news/local/2020/07/07/ocala-pastor-touched-many-lives/42053803/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&>*



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Florida Baptist pastors have a tremendous legacy to follow. You serve in fields where many seeds were sown long before you arrived. God has used many mighty men throughout the Sunshine State for His glory and countless lives have been altered for eternity through the ministry of pastors. We pause now to reflect on our Christian heritage and the men that have gone before us. The following is a listing of pastors who were called home over the last year to their eternal reward.

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

CLAYTON BARKER, retired pastor, Brevard Baptist Association  
JAMES BARRENTINE, pastor, First Baptist Church, Gaskin  
TOM BARY, pastor, Neptune Baptist Church, Neptune Beach  
DALE BLACK, minister, Surfside Community Fellowship  
R. T. BLACKSTOCK, retired director of missions, Jacksonville Baptist Association  
DOYLE BRAKE, pastor, Shoal River Baptist Church, DeFuniak Springs  
BRUCE BRANCHE, pastor, Midway Baptist Church, Mayo  
HAROLD BRANTLEY, retired director of missions, Brevard Baptist Association  
HOMER BREWER, JR., pastor, Felda Baptist Church

AL CARLISLE, pastor, Grace of God Baptist Church, New Port Richey  
UVONNE CARROLL, pastor, Glendale Baptist Church, DeFuniak Springs  
CHARLES CHAPMAN, pastor, First Baptist Church, Lucerne Park  
FRED COOK, retired, Bascom Baptist Church, Bascom  
CARLOS CORRALES, retired pastor, Miami  
ROBERTO CRUZ, retired pastor, Iglesia Cruz de Vida, Oviedo

BILL DERRYBERRY, pastor, Crossroads, West Palm Beach

MOISES ABELLA DIAZ, lead pastor, Iglesia Bautista Rescate, Hialeah  
GREG DOUGLAS, pastor, Pine Grove Baptist Church, Trenton  
ELIFRANCE DUCLOS, pastor, Mount Olive Haitian Church, Jacksonville  
KEITH DUNCAN, pastor, Church at the Springs Southwest, Ocala

CLAUDE ENGLISH, pastor, Pasadena Baptist Church, Dade City

DAN FIFE, small group pastor, Fuel Church, Lakeland  
RUSS FORTNEY, pastor, Beach Haven, Pensacola

JOHN GARNER, pastor, Oakview Baptist Church, Okeechobee  
JAMES GOODSON, retired, Florida Baptist Convention  
TERRY GREGORY, pastor, Woodrun Baptist Church, Tallahassee

WILBERT JEAN, retired pastor, Miami  
FRANK ED JENKINS, pastor, Caney Creek Baptist Church, DeFuniak Springs  
JOSIAS JOCELYN, pastor, Sanctification Haitian Baptist Church, St. Petersburg  
ANTHONY JOHNSON, pastor, Union Springs Missionary Baptist Church, DeFuniak Springs

PETER LORD, retired pastor, Park Avenue Baptist Church, Titusville

MATTHEW MEADOWS, pastor, New Berlin Baptist Church, Jacksonville  
RAFAEL MELIAN, retired, Florida Baptist Convention

MARCEL METAYER, pastor, Renaissance Evangelical Baptist Tabernacle  
RONNIE MCKENZIE, retired pastor, Kernan Boulevard Baptist Church, Jacksonville  
JERRY MOORE, retired pastor, Northside Baptist Church, Panama City  
TOM MYERS, pastor, First Baptist Church, Mims

ISRAEL OLIVEIRA, Brazilian pastor, Palm Springs Baptist Church, West Palm Beach

HUGH PATTERSON, worship pastor, Jacksonville Heights Baptist Church, Jacksonville  
HENRY PEEPLES, pastor, Bible Baptist Church, Miami  
ERNESTO PERRAZA, retired pastor, Homestead  
GUY PIERRE, assistant pastor, Eglise Evangelique Baptiste Philadelphie, Miami  
JUAN PINEDO, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Pasos de Fe, Homestead  
DAVID POLO, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Boca Glades  
BUDDY POPE, former pastor, First Baptist Church, Ellenton  
CHARLES PRIESTER, pastor, First Baptist Church, Titusville

WAYNE ROBERTS, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Winter Haven

TONY SALMERON, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Central, Ocala

PAUL SAMSON, pastor, Brooker Baptist Church

RICHARD SNODGRASS, associate pastor, Oceanside Community Fellowship

CARLOS SUAREZ, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida, Melbourne

AUGUSTO VALVERDE, pastor, Iglesia Bautista Un Nuevo Amanecer, Miami

LARRY WADE, retired pastor, Panama City

JEROME WATTS, minister of worship, Unity Baptist Church, Jacksonville

RICHARD WHITWORTH, associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Malabar

JAMES WILLIS, pastor, Pine Forest, Pensacola