

## **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.

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Russell Sauls (-1991) was a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee. He served as pastor of churches in Santa Rosa County including Wallace Baptist Church. Sauls and his wife, Janie Sauls had four children.

## Wallace Baptist Church

Smyrna Baptist Church, the original church, was organized in 1905. It was located approximately 300 yards west of the present pastorium at 3287 Wallace Lake Road.

The church relocated on Chumuckla Highway on land donated by a family in the community. In about 1943, a one-room, red tile building was constructed where the church is located today. In October 1946, the name was changed to Wallace Baptist Church. In April 1949, the church began a Baptist Training Union and in February 1952, held its first weekly prayer meeting.

In 1963, the church added an auditorium to the building and converted the red tile structure into Sunday School rooms. Approximately five years later, the red tile building was torn down and the present sanctuary constructed by the men of the church. Others were employed to do the block laying or jobs the men could not perform.

On August 1, 1990, the church voted to construct a fellowship hall, and in 1992, dedication services were held for the completed building.

Some of the pastors of Smyrna and Wallace include James Arzo Abbott, Nathaniel Timothy Cardwell, Richard Wyche, James B. Ward, Charles Rockwood Beal, Hernando DeSoto Wilson, Theodore Smith, Rev. Rogers, B.H. McWaters, K.E. Hawley, Howard Higdon, Richard Edward Morris, Clettus Columbus Morris, Rodney Riddles, Holly Secrist, Joe Secrist, John Smith, **Russell Sauls**, Roy Barrow, Robert Grover Key, E.L. Kirkland, David Strickland, John Suarez, Earl Plant, C.B. Raley, George Westmoreland, Joe Bradford, and LaDon Hall.

The church joined Pensacola Bay Baptist Association in 1907 and Santa Rosa Baptist Association in 1913.

Judith Richbourg Jolly  
Florida Baptist Historical Society  
April 2, 2002

Source: Church and association records;

Research of Beverly Campbell and Sandy Wyrosdick

# Minister who built home for kids in Mexico dies

By Shrona Foreman  
News Journal

The Rev. Russell Sauls spent his life "serving the Lord and helping other people," his wife Janie said Sunday.

"His life was a living testimony," Mrs. Sauls said. "He was devoted to his ministry."

The Rev. Sauls died Saturday night in a local hospital. The native of Chattanooga, Tenn., had lived in Milton for 33 years and had been in poor health, his wife said.

"He had suffered, but he's resting in peace now," his son Jim Sauls said.

The Rev. Sauls, who has pastored several Baptist churches in Santa Rosa County, was a member of New Life Baptist Church.

"His desire was to help the small churches. He felt that was his calling," Mrs. Saul said.

Jim Sauls has fond memories of his father. "Daddy was probably

one of the most understanding men in the world. Very seldom would you hear a cross word from him."

The Rev. Sauls retired from his job at the American Cyanamid Co. in 1970, and continued his Christian work in big ways, family members said.

Mrs. Sauls said one of her husband's biggest accomplishments was building a children's home for orphans in Juarez, Mexico, after his retirement.

"He and fellow Christians took many loads of building supplies from the Pensacola area to Mexico. They did a beautiful job and gave many children a home."

"Daddy was a kind and simple man. His actions spoke louder than he did," added Jim Sauls.

A memorial service for the Rev. Sauls will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Lewis Funeral Chapel with the Revs. George Kell, Jack Goldfarb and Dennis Henning officiating.

### THE REV. RUSSELL SAULS

The Rev. Russell Sauls, 66, of Milton died Saturday evening, June 29, 1991, in a local hospital.

The Rev. Sauls was a native of Chattanooga, Tenn., and had moved to the Milton area 33 years ago. He was a U. S. Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War and had retired from American Cyanamid. He served as pastor of several Baptist churches in Santa Rosa County and was a member of the New Life Baptist Church. He has faithfully served his Lord for the past 41 years.

Survivors include his wife, Janie Sauls of Milton; two sons and daughters-in-law, Jim and Linda Sauls, and Dan and Pam Sauls, all of Milton; two daughters and a son-in-law, Teresa and Richard Bowyer and Jane Sauls, all of Milton; five grandchildren, Jamie, Ryan, Stan, Shawna and Donna; his mother, Lurla Sauls of Hixon, Tenn.; a brother, Carl Sauls of Ringgold, Ga.; and two sisters, Louise Hullender of Ringgold and Lorraine Kelle of Hixon.

Services will be held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, in the funeral home chapel with the Rev. George Kell, Rev. Jack Goldfarb and Rev. Dennis Henning officiating.

Burial will be in Serenity Gardens. LEWIS FUNERAL HOME, 725 Highway 90 West, directing.

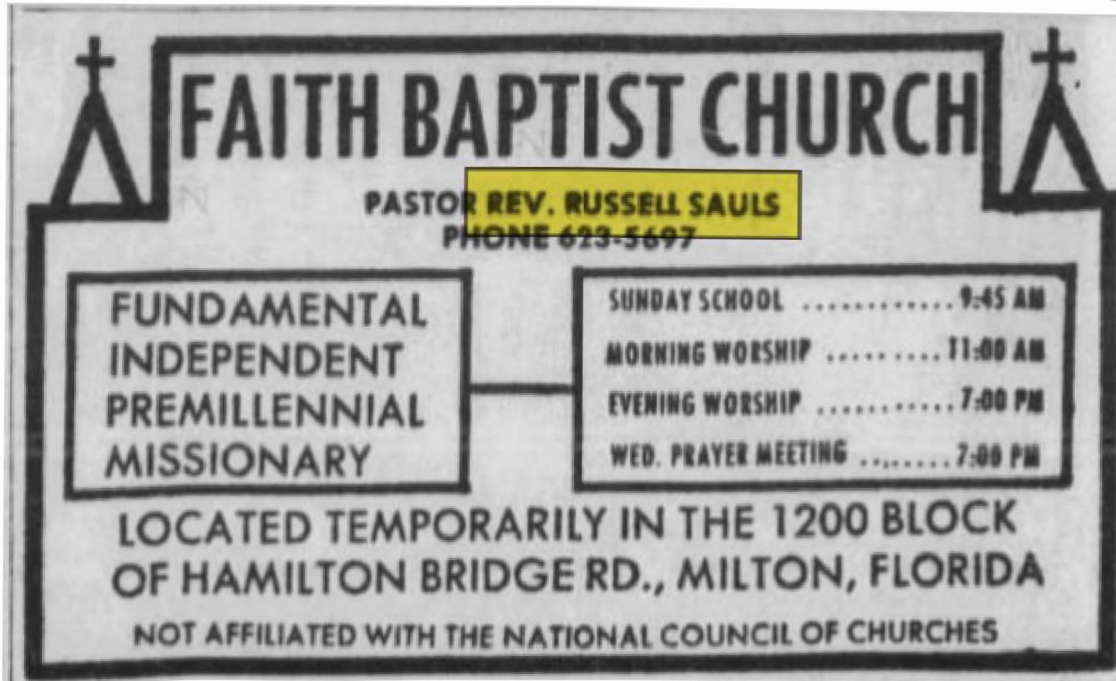
Contributions may be made to the New Life Baptist Church Building Fund, 604 Bayberry St., Milton, Fla. 32570.

Active pallbearers will be Bill Cooper, Wayne Gann, Leonard Wicks, Harvey Brayard, Tom Woodward and Pete Peters.

Harvey Brayard, Tom Woodward and Pete Peters.

Honor escorts will be Larry Lawrence and Buddy McLean.

Honorary pallbearers will be the members of the New Life Baptist Church, Paul Peters, Dr. Ron Maddux, Charles Melvin, Ben Collins, Fred Backer, Ron Lashley, Otha Grant and Dr. Danny Carey.



**FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH**

PASTOR REV. RUSSELL SAULS  
PHONE 623-5697

FUNDAMENTAL INDEPENDENT PREMILLENNIAL MISSIONARY	SUNDAY SCHOOL ..... 9:45 AM MORNING WORSHIP ..... 11:00 AM EVENING WORSHIP ..... 7:00 PM WED. PRAYER MEETING ..... 7:00 PM
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LOCATED TEMPORARILY IN THE 1200 BLOCK  
OF HAMILTON BRIDGE RD., MILTON, FLORIDA

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