

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

Robert E. Sawyer (1928-1983) was a native of Miami. He was a graduate of Stetson and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of Pembroke Road Baptist Church in Miramar for 26 years (1957-1983). He was the first pastor of the church and that was the only pastorate he ever had. He founded Penbroke Christian Academy. He helped begin Pine Lakes Baptist Church, and a Spanish mission. He and his wife, Ann Sawyer, had three sons.

Florida Features



Russell Hughes



Robert Lee Bell



Ron Mensinger



Rick Brown

Russell Hughes was recently called as minister of education/outreach of Skycrest Church, Clearwater. He goes from Central Church, Port Arthur, Texas.

Robert Lee Bell of Coral Gables was among 45 students to receive scholarships for 1983-84 at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo. The son of Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Bell, he attended Florida International University in Miami. A recipient of the L. F. Richardson scholarship, Bell plans to work in prison ministry or serve as minister of education following graduation.



Jack Cowart

Alafia Church, Lithia, honored **Jack Cowart** Oct. 9 with dinner on the grounds. Cowart, who has been the church's music director for 30 years, also received a plaque for his faithful service. Eight pastors, 17 musicians and hundreds of choir members

he has worked with over the past 30 years attended the service.

Gregory Michael Thornton was called as minister of education and youth of First Church, Valrico, effective Oct. 23. He has served several churches in North Carolina in the same capacity. A graduate of Gardner-Webb College, Boiling Springs, N.C., and Southeastern Seminary, he goes from Calypso Church, Calypso, N.C., where he served as pastor for two years.

Fred D. Hubbs, pastor of Arlington Church, Jacksonville, for the past eight years, has announced plans to retire on March 1, 1984.

Ron Mensinger, former pastor of Sierra Norwood Church, Miami, is now associate pastor of First Church of Ojus, North Miami Beach. A graduate of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, he is head chaplain of Broward County Correctional Institution. His former pastorates include Greensboro Church, Greensboro, and First Church, North Canton, Ohio.

Celebration Church, Tallahassee, called **Rick Brown** as minister of activities, effective Oct. 16. He was minister of education at Cave Springs Church, Roanoke, Va.

Southside Church, Lake City, recently ordained **Warren R. Godsmark Jr.**, pastor at Philippi Church, Lake City, to the gospel ministry. Godsmark's father, Warren Godsmark Sr., a pastor in Virginia, gave the charge to the candidate. Jerry L. Adkins, director of missions, Beulah Association, brought the charge to the churches. Lamar Pierce, chairman of deacons at Southside, presented the ordination certificate, and E. Winslow Butler, Southside's pastor, gave the prayer of dedication.

Holopaw Chapel, Holopaw, a mission of First Church, St. Cloud, was constituted as a church Oct. 9 with 40 members. Fifty were present at the service, including James Fortinberry, director of missions, Greater Orlando Association. Willard Boman is pastor at Holopaw and Dan Hayes is pastor at St. Cloud.

On Nov. 6, **Carl F. Loughary** received the pastoral ministries diploma from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute, the correspondence arm of the Seminary Extension Department. He is pastor of Sabal Palm Church, Tallahassee.

Robert Sawyer Dies at Age 55

Robert E. Sawyer, pastor of Pembroke Road Church, Miramar, for the past 26 years, died Oct. 24 at Memorial Hospital, Hollywood, of heart problems. He was 55.

Funeral services were Oct. 26 at Pembroke Road, with Cliff Hoolsema, chaplain at Calder Racetrack, officiating. Pembroke staff members Alex Toth, minister of youth; Jim Koscheski, associate pastor/minister of evangelism; and Art Herbert, minister of education/administration assisted. Interment was at Hollywood Memorial Gardens.

A native of Miami, Sawyer was graduated from Stetson University, DeLand, and Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. After graduating from seminary in 1957, he became pastor of the Miramar church when it began as a mission of First Church, Hollywood. He was the church's only pastor and the church was his only pastorate.

During his tenure as pastor, Sawyer founded Pembroke Christian Academy, of which he was president; helped begin Pines Lake Church; and started a Spanish mission.

He is survived by his widow, Ann; three sons, David of Hollywood, and Joel and Robert Jr. of Pembroke Pines; and his mother, Orpha J. Sawyer of Miramar.

Missionary Address

Mr. and Mrs. David G. Hause (associates, Norway)—c/o Mrs. Steve Tapp, 2107 Sixth Ave. W., Bradenton, Fla. 33505.

First Church, St. Petersburg, called **Larry Pearson** as pastor on Oct. 2. A graduate of New Orleans Seminary, he served Annie Page Memorial Church, Riddleville, Ga.

James H. Snell Jr. was called as pastor of Fellowship Church, Avon Park. A graduate of Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, he goes from Venus Church, Venus.

God sometimes puts us on our back so that we may look upward.

Firs
tow: I
nard E
music
Soul 5
singin
memb
Heath

Firs
Nov.
Postel
groun
mer p
vited;

Fell
13, 20t
guest
special
pastor.
James

Ridg
Nov. 1.
by The
on the
friends
pastor.

Firs
70th an
speaker
choirs;
in the
Larry

East
13, 35t
inson,
recogni
membe

El B
81st an
speaker
pastors
Smith,

O'Bri
dinner
member
Kimbril

Firs
20; dinn
sic; forr
invited;

East:
Smith, e
professi
Lewis D

NOVEMBER