

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

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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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Shaw, Bill was a native of Atlanta, Georgia. He graduated from Stetson University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Shaw served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Brooksville and Oceanside Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale. After retiring in 2013, Shaw became a fulltime evangelist. He and his wife had one son.

Baptists To Hold Revival

OXFORD — **Rev. Bill Shaw**, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Brooksville, is leading in revival services at the Oxford Baptist Church which began Wednesday and will continue nightly at 7:30 through Friday, November 9.

Rev. Shaw is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, but has spent most of his life in Jacksonville. While still in high school he began supplying pulpits and accepted the call to the ministry during his first year in college.

HIS ministerial training was received at Stetson University and Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C. He is married and has one son.

During the revival, special music will be supplied by combined choirs of Oxford Church, with special numbers from Brooksville Church groups.

Rev. Harold Harlee, pastor of the local church, is a music director of many years evangelistic experience and will direct the musical portion of the service. He extends an invitation to all in the area to come to the services.

Fort Lauderdale pastor retires to return to full-time evangelism

FORT LAUDERDALE (FBW)—After retiring as pastor of Oceanside Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, Bill Shaw is planning to return to the ministry to which he was called at age 16. He hopes to lead revivals in churches across the nation.

Two giants in Southern Baptist history encouraged his love for evangelism through the years, he said. He counts the late R.G. Lee, pastor at Belleview Baptist Church in Memphis 1927- 1960, his "father in the ministry." Another giant is the late W.A. Criswell of First Baptist Church in Dallas where Shaw served as staff evangelist for 20 years. Shaw hopes to continue the evangelism focus he learned from Lee and Criswell.

"Most churches do not have revivals, but most churches need revival," he said.

Shaw said 21st century pastors do not want revivals because the series of meetings involves too much work. He said pastors find it easier to invite a friend to preach than to invite "men of God with the gift of evangelism."

"You have to do the work in preparation and prayer. Some people say that revivals don't work these days, but they won't work if you don't work at it," he said.

When Shaw preaches a revival in a church he suggests the church print tickets for the services and mail the tickets to church members, prospective members and "friends of the church."

"It is amazing how many people will come to a service when they have a free ticket," he said.

While he was pastor of Oceanside Baptist, Shaw was unable to plan for revival meetings at his own church.

The congregation of 35-50 did not have a permanent home that could be used on weekdays. The church met in an office building, and in two hotels during his 10-year pastorate.

"We could never have a revival, a nursery, or a Sunday School, and that gravely hurt us," he said.

Single adults make up most of his congregation. He said the congregation is "non-traditional" but the worship services are traditional.

"You may think they'd want a contemporary service, but they got saved under my ministry, and they are quite happy with 'Victory in Jesus' and 'Holy, Holy, Holy,'" he said.

Since his retirement Sept. 15, Shaw has been "putting out the word" about his change in ministry. He hopes to travel to revival meetings to find the same success as he had 20 years ago— when as many as 100 would make decisions in a service.

"I am ready to go on the road for evangelism, and any success will be from the Lord," he said.

Florida Baptist Witness, first article November 7, 2013 second article September 5, 2013

Why we need revival

Bill Shaw

There are several reasons we need revival: First, in some churches we've become doctrinally deficient. Repentance is many times avoided. Hell is not mentioned in many pulpits, even though the Scripture has many references to that fact. Regeneration and being born again as a prerequisite to church membership status are perceived as relics of an old and past era. Many have watered down the Gospel. Then the church loses its power, and the Gospel is no longer the Gospel. As the late Vance Havner used to say, "Some now preach that other gospel, even though there is not another Gospel."

Second, in many churches pastors no longer have an evangelistic emphasis in the church. It is now said by some leaders that it takes more than 100 church members in a year to win a person to Christ. In a recent survey more than 50 percent of pastors who were interviewed said that they had not presented the Gospel with anyone individually in many months. The absence of evangelistic fervor in many of our churches is proof that we need revival.

Third—prayerfulness. In many churches the members get caught up in divisive business meetings, and there is no longer a prayer meeting on Wednesday night. The late Dr. Criswell used to say that when he was a student at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky, he preached at a little church in the country where they were able to purchase a new piano. So the church took up their prayer meeting time in arguing where the new piano should be placed. Should it be on the left side of the pulpit or on the right side of the pulpit? Then there was a group that wanted the piano in the middle of the auditorium. The church had three divisions.

Many times our churches are not winning the lost. We are having other church members to transfer their membership from one congregation to another. We have become instead of fishers of men, keepers of the aquarium. I would say to all of us, let's confess our sins of disobedience and our failures and determine to be a part of the solution. Let's have a personal renewal for evangelism and soul-winning and revival in our churches.

This is my prayer, and I hope that it is yours.

Bill Shaw is pastor of Oceanside Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale.