

## 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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**Sietman, Donald L. [also Seitman]** (1923-1993) was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Frank E. and Clara Keller Sietman. He attended Moody Bible Institute, Chicago. During WWII, Sietman served as chaplain in the Air Force. He served as pastor of North East Park Baptist Church; North Boulevard Baptist Church, Tampa; First Baptist Church, Newberry; First Baptist Church, Tarpon Springs; Lake Maggiore Baptist Church, Tampa; New Home Baptist Church, Perry; and Webster Memorial Baptist Church, Tampa. Sietman and his wife, Melba I. Sietman had two children.



# Taylor 1986

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NEW HOME BAPTIST CHURCH

Mr. W.O. Williams was a business man in Perry for nearly 30 years. He retired in 1940. About two years before his retirement, Mr. Williams was converted. As this fine man and his wife began to think about their material blessings, and to consider how they could use some of those earthly possessions to further the cause of Christ, they arrived at a fine conclusion. They would build a 30' by 40' frame building on the property which they owned on Center Street, furnish it with pews, piano, heater, hymnbooks and give it to the Baptists in that area as soon as they organized it into a regular Missionary Baptist Church.

Thus, on October 5, 1941, a New Testament Missionary Baptist Church was duly organized with seven charter members. The church was named "New Home Baptist Church". A pastor was then called, which was Rev. Edward McCollum. The doors of the church were left open for a short time for charter members, and under the ministry of Bro. McCollum there were 28 charter members.

Through the years, the church has worshipped in three sanctuaries: the original one, given by the Williamses; the church facing Center Street, occupied in 1949; and the present one facing U.S. 27, occupied in 1962.

Thirteen pastors have served the church since its beginning. During the first 25 months of her history, three pastors served. They were Rev. Edward McCollum, Rev. A. H. Townsend, and Rev. S. G. Ward. The fourth pastor, Rev. Alva Horton, served the church for 19 years, until poor health forced him to resign and take a smaller church. The following have served as pastors since 1963: Rev. Edward Harvey, Rev. David Pickern, Rev. Roy Rigdon, Rev. **Don Sietman**, Rev. Michael Hunt, Rev. Charles Houston, Rev. Bill Anderson, Rev. Ed Gardner and the present pastor, Rev. William H. (Bill) Jenkins.

We pay a sincere tribute to every minister who has pastored the New Home Baptist Church. We also pay a sincere tribute to the great multitude of men and women who have served in any capacity whatsoever, in furthering the cause of Christ through this church.

Several men have been licensed and ordained to the ministry, as they entered God's service from this church. They are Rev. Olin C. Horton, Rev. William Terrell, Rev. Kenneth Gaskin, Rev. Leon Akins, Rev. John Dorman, Rev. Byron Tedder, Rev. Jerry Durden and Rev. Jimmy Moore.

New Home offers several ministries to our community. They are: the Bus Ministry; the Tape Ministry; the T.V. Ministry on Sunday Morning at 8:00 A.M.; and the Deaf Ministry, available in every service for the hearing impaired. In March of this year (1986) under the leadership of Rev. Jenkins, the church launched into a building program to construct a "Family Life and Recreation Center" to be used in God's Service.

New Home Baptist Church is truly a "Growing Church for a Growing People".

# Fall Revival Set

The Bay Street Baptist Church will start its fall revival Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. and will continue through Oct. 19. The **Rev. Don Sietman**, pastor of the Webster Avenue Baptist Church, Lakeland, Florida, will be the evangelist.

**Rev. Sietman** was born in Ohio and received his education in that state. He served in the U.S. Army Corps during World War II. He came to Florida about 25 years ago for his pastoral work. He has pastored in several Florida churches: North Boulevard in Tampa, New Berry, Tarpon Springs, St. Petersburg,

and for the past four years at Webster Avenue. **Rev. Sietman** and wife, Melba, have a son, Ladd, and a daughter, Charlotte.

**ROBERT** Granger, music director and director of youth at Bay Street Baptist Church, will lead the revival music.

Granger has had great success as an evangelistic singer having led church music in several northern and southern cities.

Each evening the church choir will be featured along with other special music. Services will start each night at 7:30 p.m. and there will

**REV. DON SIETMAN OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
of Tarpon Springs, writes:  
"Dear Pete:

## North Blvd. Baptist Church Will Install New Pastor Today

Installation of The **Rev. Don Sietman** as pastor of the North Boulevard Baptist Church will take place today at the regular Sunday morning services. Mr. Sietman has been in Tampa for some time and has been the director of the Tampa Youth for Christ, a movement to get young people of the community to go to church.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, he attended the public schools there, graduating from high school in 1941. After that he attended the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

During the war Mr. Sietman was with the 14th Air Force in China for three years acting as a chaplain.

The North Boulevard Church has been lacking a pastor for some time and has been operating with visiting pastors from local churches preaching the sermons. Immediate plans for the future call for a revival meeting with the new pastor acting as evangelist.

**Rev. Don Sietman** of Northeast Park Baptist Church will give the Baccalaureate sermon in Northeast High's auditorium today at 3 p.m.

**The Rev. Don Sietman**

The **Rev. Don Sietman**, director of Tampa Youth for Christ since September, 1946, has announced his resignation to accept the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, of Newberry. He will assume his duties there today.

Seth Evers, a member of the First

programs.

The Lake Maggiore Baptist Church has voted to call an associate pastor to work fulltime with youth, according to **Rev. Don Sietman**.

**Rev.** Perry Ray Johnson, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Newberry, will begin implementing the youth program Jan. 12.

Pastor **Sietman** says that Lake Maggiore will continue its enlargement of its Sunday School organization under the direction of Mike Richardson.

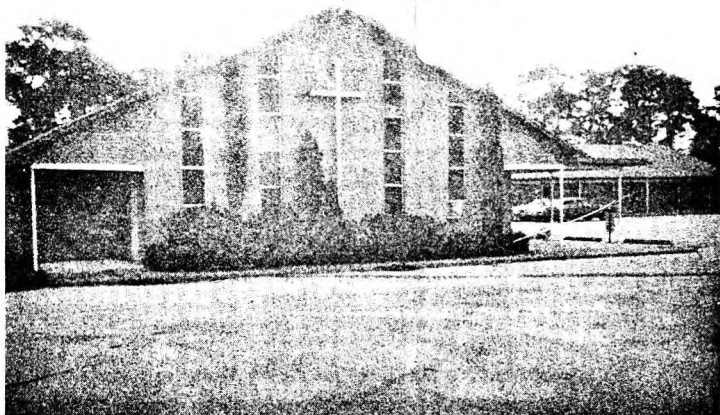
✓ The First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg

**Rev. Don Sietman**, pastor of the New Home Baptist Church in Perry, Fla., will conduct a week-long revival beginning Sunday at the North East Park Baptist Church, 3737 First St. NE.

**Rev. Sietman**, who was the first pastor at the North East Park church, will hold services at 8:15 and 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. During the week, services will be at 7:30 p.m.

✓ ✓ ✓

Brief History 1979 South Florida  
Baptist Association Minutes  
pp. 74-83



#### HISTORY OF THE WEBSTER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH LAKELAND, FLORIDA

In April of 1925, a band of Christians numbering seven met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Everett of Sixth Street for the purpose of holding a cottage prayer meeting. Interest in the weekly prayer meeting, organized under the leadership of R. E. Cheshire, grew steadily until every home in the community was open. Services were held each Thursday throughout the year. Attendance grew until the homes were taxed to hold the people.

So on January 10, 1926, a meeting was held under a tent; furnished by the State Board, on Webster Avenue, on a lot given to the organization by the First Baptist Church, for the purpose of organizing a church. There were forty-eight members in the organization and the organization was named the Webster Avenue Baptist Church.

After meeting under the tent for a month, they moved to the Webster Avenue School auditorium through the courtesy of the Board of Education.

March 21st Rev. S. W. King was called as their first pastor. After a groundbreaking service held on the lot, work began immediately on the foundation.

Rev. King found it necessary to resign June 1 due to declining health. Dr. J. T. B. Anderson was called to the pastorate.

1979

The third pastor was Rev. Dewey Mann. Then Rev. Harry Day, Rev. W. W. Dossey and Rev. Charlie Sutton followed. The old church was dedicated during Bro. Sutton's pastorate. Bro. Roscoe Hall came on the field of service December 27, 1939 and served until March 1945.

Disaster struck February 13, 1944 after evening services. The building caught fire and burned to the ground destroying all records. However, dark as it seemed, remembering this was during wartime, we raised \$35,000. With the \$7,000 insurance payment, this gave us \$42,000 to rebuild.

In 1945 Rev. K. P. Puffer was called and he served eight years. After Bro. Puffer resigned, the church called Rev. H. G. Wheeler who served from June 1953 to November 1956.

Next, the church called Rev. James A. McKeithen. Under his leadership, we experienced the first forward program of Church Finance. We called our first Educational Director, Bro. Frank Delrose. Bro. I. E. Enlow served as Interim until January 1959 when Bro. J. C. Walters accepted our call.

Bro. Bascom Sutton filled the pulpit as Interim until October, 1961 when the Lord sent Bro. Ernie Habaker.

There were many racial strifes resulting from the Civil Rights Law being enforced. What was once a neighborhood church ceased as members began moving out. In the best interest of the church, the Deacon Board recommended we seek a buyer for the property and relocate. It was over four years before this came to pass. Bro. Habaker submitted his resignation in September, 1965 to return to fulltime Evangelism.

In December Bro. **Don Sietman** accepted our call. Four months later we purchased our present property, a five-acre tract across from Kathleen High School on Chestnut Road.

Serving with Bro. Sietman was Bro. Bill Baker as Music and Education Director. These two men led us through some very trying times as one after another for the property was accepted or rejected for various reasons. We went through some traumatic experiences resulting from decisions we made. We accepted plans for a new plant only to realize, too late, it was beyond our reach. We paid dearly for a bitter lesson, but God provided.

During the early part of 1970 there seemed to be a cloud of restlessness and indecision. Nothing had materialized in selling the property. Members were leaving; others were afraid to come at night due to the location. Yet others wanted to remain and not move. It was a crucial time for we

came close to dissolving the church. But God was faithful and continued to show His mercy as we sought His direction. There were several alternatives. We chose to continue with our plans and relocate. In the final analysis we saw our need to be more faithful to the Lord, allow our love to increase for souls and build up one another.

We licensed another young man to the Ministry and ordained Bro. Jimmy Hodges, who is in fulltime Music and Evangelism. For the first time colored children started attending Sunday School, VBS and one went to camp. She was well received and no one seemed to notice the color of her skin.

Bro. Sietman resigned in September, 1970, and we called Bro. Carl Storey as Interim. Then, Praise the Lord, we sold the property and buildings, and plans were made for the big exodus. Bro. Storey became the Pastor and suggested we consider more than just erecting a building but a ministry for the future of this church. We had our last service in the old building September 27, 1970, forty-four years to the day when the first service was held in the wooden building that burned.

For a second time Webster met in a school. This time at Kathleen High. We purchased a Modular unit mobile home and placed on the property. It was used for office and storage space, and doubled for the Nursery and younger children on Sunday. As it was the center of all our activities, it became known as Webster Center Building. We changed our name to Webster Memorial Baptist Church.

We broke ground for the first building Nov. 15 on a pay-as-you-go basis with much of the work done by the members. In five months we held a dedication service and moved in.

The church called Bro. Marvin Spivey as our 15th pastor. His pastorate was shortlived as he was with us one year.

In the next twenty months we learned more of God's mercy as He sustained us. Bro. Harold Burkey came as Interim and served until March 1, 1975. Serving as Minister of Music and Youth was John Tagliarini, part-time, and served faithfully until this August, 1979 when he resigned to accept a professorship in Music at Tusculum College, Greeneville, Tenn. Bro. Burkey taught us much about the Lord Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.

During the next five months, the church went through a period of disunity in calling a pastor. Then Bro. Preston Baker finished seminary and returned home. Feeling we would be beneficial to each other, he accepted our call as Associate Pastor with emphasis on the Youth. Actually he performed the duties of the pastor. We ordained him and under his leadership grew in numbers and spiritually. He served alone in this capa-

city until April 1976, when he resigned to accept the pastorate of Berea Baptist in Auburndale.

The next three years brought many changes and additions. Bro. Harold Poage of Clio, Michigan, accepted our call and began his ministry in April. This month marked the fiftieth anniversary of Webster, and a special committee made plans to hold a celebration and homecoming the last Sunday in April.

Bro. Poage immediately launched the church into Andy Anderson's program of Action and Outreach on witnessing and how to grow a Sunday School. Bro. Frank Land, of Ft. Myers, led us in this. Consequently, the church voted to begin a bus ministry and outreach program, securing Carl Freeman as parttime Bus Director and Mrs. Vickie LaForest as Outreach Director. Later they would be added to the staff fulltime.

Due to increased enrollment, our needs became space and trained leadership. The church voted to erect building "B" to house Preschool, Children's and Youth Divisions, fellowship hall, kitchen and offices. The building was completed in Feb. of '78 and dedicated March 5.

In 1978 we added a Special Ministry Class for the handicapped ranging from age 4 to 30. The class, led by Mrs. Pat Foster, has an enrollment of 15 and an attendance of 14 each Sunday.

Our growing Bus Ministry and Sunday School enrollment necessitated a third building. At this writing a multi-purpose metal building 50'x120' and 16' high, in a pod situation, is almost complete. But not soon enough for the largest VBS Webster has had. Enrollment was 575 with an average attendance of 324 for an eight-day school.

In these three years, we've experienced eight revival meetings, led by Evangelists Walter K. Ayers (twice), Tommy Phelps, Ernie Habacker, James McKeithen, Homer Martinez, David Ring and the Jack Hazlewood Team. Music for some of these meetings was provided by Richard and Jean Miller, John Tagliarini and Jim McNeill. We also participated in the James Robison Crusade at the Civic Center.

We increased our budget from \$72,202.00 to \$122,260.61. Webster has come to know Baptist Faith and Doctrine as taught by the Bible through Bro. Poage's Ministry. He impressed upon us "to win the lost" is the primary function of the church and taught several classes on soul-winning techniques. His deep convictions and great love for lost people compels him to preach the gospel. Since he's been at Webster, the membership increased by 353 giving a total membership for 1979 as 1,040.

**North East Park Baptist Church, 3737 First St. NE. — The Rev. Don Sietman, pastor, will conduct a series of discussions on Christian living and church life for the next four Sunday evenings, from 6:15 to 7:15 o'clock.**

Rev Donald Ladd Sietman Sr.

Birth 30 Jul 1923 Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, USA

Death 12 Nov 1993 (aged 70) Saint Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, USA

Burial Memorial Park Cemetery Saint Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, USA

Obituary pub. in Tampa Bay Times, St Petersburg, FL, 14 Nov 1993, Sun, Page 49

Family Members

Parents

Frank E Sietman

1885–1965

Clara Keller Sietman

1881–1949

Spouse

Melba I Sietman

1919–2002 (m. 1944)

Children

Donald Ladd Sietman

1946–2012

Melba I Sietman

Birth 9 Feb 1919 Mulberry, Polk County, Florida, USA

Death 18 Jan 2002 (aged 82) Saint Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, USA

Burial Memorial Park Cemetery Saint Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida, USA

Melba I. Sietman, 82, of St. Petersburg, FL, moved to St. Petersburg in 1955 from Tarpon Springs, Florida. She was a 1938 graduate of Hillsboro High School. She, along with her late husband, the Rev. Donald L. Sietman who died in 1993, served at North East Park Baptist Church for ten years and at Lake Maggiore Baptist Church where he was named Pastor Emeritus, for 13 years. She also formerly worked for Olan Mills Portrait Studios and Sarah Coventry Jewelry. She is survived by her son, Donald L.,(Sandra) Jr., her daughter, Charlotte R. (Jeffery) Beverly, and two grandsons, George and Bryan Beverly. Interment at Memorial Park Cemetery

Family Members

Spouse

Donald Ladd Sietman

1923–1993 (m. 1944)

ness Insured; night, The Philosophy of Solomon.  
North Blvd., The **Rev. Don Seitman**, pastor; Sunday school, 10; worship service, 11; night, 7:30.  
Jackson Heights, Dr. W. A. Sloan, pastor; Spiritual and Intelligent Church Music; night, Resisting the Devil

## Odessa Baptist 7th Homecoming

Odessa Baptist Church will hold its seventh annual homecoming tomorrow.

The **Rev.** R. T. Burns of Amelia, former pastor of the church, will be the guest speaker at the morning worship service. There will be dinner on the ground at noon.

The homecoming address will be delivered by The **Rev. Don Seitman**, pastor of the Tarpon Springs Baptist Church, at the afternoon service. Mrs. Burney Jackson will give the History of the Church. Special music will be provided by visiting churches and the local church choir.

The **Rev.** Floyd Tyceson, of Dover, a former pastor of the church, will be the speaker at the evening service.

The **Rev.** Warren Nubern is Odessa pastor.



**REV. DON SEITMAN**

To devote all of his time to the promotion of Youth for Christ, of which he is director in the Tampa area, the **Rev. Don** Seitman, pastor of the North Boulevard Baptist Church for the last seven months, has resigned, effective tomorrow night, he announced. Immediate plans include organization of a Youth for Christ Gospel Team, made up of young people of the Tampa group, to make a tour of churches presenting the Youth for Christ movement, he said.



You're Cordially Invited To Attend The  
**EVANGELISTIC SERVICES**  
**PASADENA BAPTIST CHURCH**



635 - 64th St. South  
 St. Petersburg, Fla.  
 Ross Moyer, Pastor

**FEBRUARY 18-25**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**SPECIAL MUSIC, NURSERY**

*Everybody Welcome*

**Rev. Don Seitman**, Pastor, Webster Ave. Baptist Church, Lakeland, Florida. He served with the Flying Tigers in Burma & China during World War II.

**NORTHEAST PARK CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY**

The 25th anniversary celebration of Northeast Park Baptist Church, 3737 First St. NE, will be held Sunday. **Rev. Don Seitman**, first pastor of the church, will conduct the 10:45 a.m. service with charter members as special guests. An ice-cream social will be held at 6 p.m. followed by the 7 p.m. service at which

Wednesday at 3:30 p.m., with  
 the **Rev. Don Seitman**, pastor  
 of the N.E. Baptist Church of  
 St. Petersburg officiating.  
 Burial will be in Memorial Park  
 Cemetery in St. Petersburg.

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**AUGUST BRIDE**—Miss Nina Virginia Norfleet, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dudley Norfleet, of this city, became the bride of James Thomas Sanders, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Sanders of High Springs, on Aug. 2, at 5:30 p.m. in the First Baptist Church. The Rev. Don Seitman, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tarpon Springs, assisted by the bride's cousin, the Rev. Dwight Dudley of Ft. Worth, Tex., performed the ceremony. The bride attended Southern Seminary and Junior College, Buena Vista, Va., and Florida State University. The bridegroom was graduated from Newberry High School, where he served as treasurer of the student body for two years. He is employed by the Engineering Department of the State Road Department. They will reside at 305 Madison St., Starke.