

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

Segars, Edwin R., Sr. (1923-2006) was born in McBee, South Carolina. He served as associate evangelist and team representative for Christ For the World, Inc. before coming to serve as pastor of Florida Shores Baptist Church, Orlando, 1967-1977. Segars and his wife, Dorothy Patterson Segars served as missionaries to Bangkok, Thailand and Dankar, Senegal, West Africa for 3 ½ years. The Segars' had two children.



The Rev. Edwin Segars read Bible daily, helped Vietnamese refugees

By JOSEPH RASSEL
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Every morning of his adult life, the first thing the Rev. Edwin R. Segars did was open his Bible, read it and pray. No matter where he was — Africa, Thailand, South Korea, India or Orlando — his Bible was with him.

Segars, a longtime Orlando resident who recently moved to Brooksville, died Sunday of complications from a stroke. He was 82.

“He was passionate for learning more about God and winning souls,” said his daughter, Patricia Segars Lambright of Brooksville. “He still studied and read and took notes. He wanted everyone to go to heaven.”

During his 11 years there, he was instrumental in relocating hundreds of Vietnamese refugees during the evacuation of Vietnam, and helped to establish and organize the first Vietnamese Southern Baptist Church.



SEGARS

“He was the liaison between all the denominations trying to find homes for people leaving Vietnam,” Lambright said. “He had already been to India and South Korea and had connections all over the world. My parents took a family of seven and sponsored them and helped them get established and on their feet.”

Segars also worked at getting

mission field and served with his wife as missionaries in Bangkok, Thailand, and also in Dakar, Senegal, West Africa, where they helped establish Baptist churches. The couple’s overseas mission ended after 3½ years, though, when Segars contracted malaria and developed a heart condition.

After returning to Orlando, Segars was asked to serve as chaplain for Edgewood Children’s Ranch in Orlando.

“He would preach the services on Sunday and counsel the children and parents. He was like their pastor to them,” his daughter said.

Although Segars retired from Edgewood in the mid-1980s, he continued to serve the church by filling in at the pulpit for ministers who were out of town or

C
V
ki
p
H
th
al
ar
g
b
G
B
S
ri
G
T
of
fr
of
C
in
w
th
ta
B
3
w
er
iti
th
A
F
sc
d

wanted everyone to go to heaven."

Born in McBee, S.C., Segars moved to Orlando 40 years ago to serve as crusade director for Christ for the World, a missionary organization.

"He worked with Dr. E.J. Daniels, who would go to different places and preach crusades," Lambright said. "Dad would go beforehand to get all the churches together and talk to the church leaders. He would set up committees, get the tent set up and make sure there was restroom facilities. He made sure the crusade had everything that was needed, from altar workers to a place for the evangelist to stay. It was all about winning souls."

In 1968, Segars became pastor of Florida Shores Baptist Church on Oak Ridge Road in Orlando.

Segars also worked at getting sponsors for other families and finding church members to give the refugees jobs, or even teach English classes and teach them to drive.

"It was their responsibility to take these foreign people and help them become Americans," Lambright said.

With the help of one Vietnamese family staying with him, Segars soon began offering services at his church in Vietnamese.

"They organized a Vietnamese Southern Baptist Church right there at Florida Shores," Lambright said. "The Vietnamese church is still going today in a different location."

While working with the Billy Graham School of Evangelism in India and South Korea, Segars decided to go to the mis-

by doing it as the people for ministers who were out of town or by speaking at the Vietnamese church, where he would need a translator. He also performed weddings for people who used to attend the now-defunct Florida Shores Baptist Church.

"He was a pastor and continued in that role. He never stopped. He just kept on," Lambright said.

He also is survived by his wife of 60 years, Dorothy Patterson Segars of Brooksville and Orlando; one son, Robby Segars of Auburn, Ala.; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Merritt Funeral Home, Brooksville, is handling arrangements.

Joseph Rassel can be reached at jrassel@orlandosentinel.com or 407-420-5658.

... at All Saints Episco



REV. EDWIN SEGARS
... New minister

pal Church. Evensing
with sermon at 8 p.m.

NEW MINISTER at the Florida Shores Baptist Church is the Rev. **Edwin R. Segars**. A native of Camden, S. C., he has been associate evangelist and team representative for Christ For the World, Inc.
Other new ministers in

er, He wants His children to enjoy the finest and best. But remember this: you can't beat God in the game of giveaway.

If we give up something for Him, He gives back to us a hundredfold. It really then isn't a sacrifice, but a wonderful game in which God takes delight in matching our consecration with blessings beyond measure.

"He that loseth his life for my sake," said Jesus, "shall find it."

***Cholera Epidemic
Kills 32 Persons***

MANILA (UPI) —A cholera epidemic in Bohol Province in the southern Philippines has claimed 32 lives and infected 130 other persons since the new year started, the Health Depart-



REV. GERA
... New

sionary to speaker at Saturday ser Hagem's son of the Flor Day Advent ence.

TED PLA will be guest Youth for Ch night.

Farewells set for Segars

The Rev. and Mrs. Edwin R. Segars, who were appointed missionaries to Thailand, will make their farewell speeches at the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday at Florida Shores Baptist Church, 1325 W. Oak Ridge Road.

Segars, who has been pastor of the Florida Shores Church for the past 11 years, will leave for Bangkok later in the day. He will serve as senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Bangkok, where several English-speaking nationalities worship.

Mrs. Segars, who taught 12 years in the Orange County School System, will assist children of the English-speaking community in counseling and in some cases with their studies.

The Segarses recently completed four months of intensive orientation in Pine Mountain, Ga., where many Southern Baptist missionaries are required to study and write on the customs and lifestyles of each country in which they are designated.

Of various courses the Segarses have taken, articulatory skills, Mrs. Segars said, was the most difficult to tackle. They also studied how to deliver a baby during an emergency, she said.



Rev. and Mrs. Edwin R. Segars
... leave for Thailand Sunday

"If there is an emergency, I sure will try but I sure hope it doesn't happen."