

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

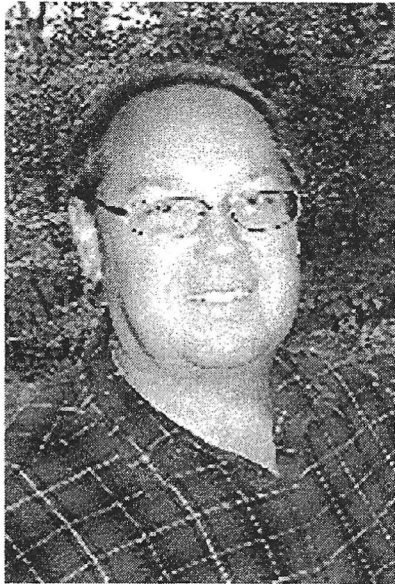
This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.

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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Sherman, Byron Keith (1958-) was born in Granite Quarry, North Carolina the son of Clarendon and Helen Marie Justice Sherman. He graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sherman served as pastor of churches in Georgia and Florida including Richland Baptist Church, Zephyrhills, 2005-2006. He and his wife, Mary Miller Ralston Sherman (m. 1981) have four children.

Byron Keith Sherman
Pastor, Richland Baptist Church, 2005-2006



Byron Keith Sherman, son of Dr. Clarendon Sherman and Helen Marie (Justice) Sherman, was born July 10, 1958, in Granite Quarry, Rowan County, North Carolina. In 1981, he married Mary Miller Ralston, his childhood sweetheart. God has blessed their marriage with four children, Mary Catherine, James Matthew, Samuel (Sam) Caleb, and Ellinor Grace.

Rev. Sherman received a B.A. in Biology in 1980 from Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer, North Carolina. He was ordained in March 1994 at Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina, and graduated in December 1994 with a Masters of Divinity 'with languages' from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina. He began pastoring full-time in the summer of 1995 and served Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Vidalia, Georgia, Penia Baptist Church in Cordele, Georgia,

and Providence Baptist Church in Whigham, Georgia, before coming to Richland.

On January 12, 2005, Richland Baptist Church extended a call to Rev. Sherman, and he began his ministry on February 1, 2005. They bought a home in Wesley Chapel, and Mrs. Sherman, a nurse, was employed at University Community Hospital in Tampa.

As a diligent student of God's Word, Rev. Sherman prepared his sermons well and then always prayed that God would speak through him and give him recall of the things God had revealed to him during the study time. He also prayed that God would go far beyond his own abilities and reveal Himself in new ways while the delivery was taking place. He was conscientious in teaching doctrine and led the congregation through The Baptist Faith and Message on Wednesday nights. Upgrades to the property during his ministry included the installation of solar lights on the church sign on Stewart Road and Old Lakeland Highway and the re-roofing of the Sunday School rooms.

It was during Rev. Sherman's ministry that Jim Chase was called to be youth minister at Richland Baptist Church. It also was during Rev. Sherman's ministry that Russell Guynn became minister of music. Both men continue to serve the Lord at Richland and reflect Rev. Sherman's investment in their lives.

Many fondly remember Rev. Sherman today for his down-to-earth personality and his gift of relating to and identifying with everyone. A favorite story is that when he preached in view of a call, he came in a dress shirt, jeans, and sneakers. He discovered when he began to get ready Sunday morning that he'd left his dress shoes behind. A seemingly small event endeared him from the beginning to Richland's people.

Following his March 2006 resignation, he returned to North Carolina, where he has been active in supply work. He also has published over 150 sermons through the online ministry, "Sermon Central" (www.sermoncentral.com). He is presently interim pastor at Needmore Baptist Church in Woodleaf, Rowan County, North Carolina.