

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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Sible, John H. (1929-1992) was born in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Stetson University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sible was ordained by Spencer Memorial Baptist Church. He served as director of missions of Marion Association 1977-1992. He grew up in Tampa. He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Graham; Southside Baptist Church, Sarasota; Northside Baptist Church, Ruskin; Palm Avenue Baptist Church, Tampa, First Baptist Church, Osprey and First Baptist Church, Orange City. He and his wife, Grace, had a daughter, Pamela, and a son, John, Jr. Grace Sibole would go on to serve as director of missions for the Marion Baptist Association after her husband's death (1992-1994).



faith profile

Rev. John H. Sible has been pastor of the Palm Avenue Baptist Church — second oldest Baptist church since December 1965. He came as a "trouble shooter" to help the church solve some difficult problems and get a program moving ahead in a changing neighborhood which calls for new approaches in Christian work.



Sible

In the year of his ministerial labors Mr. Sible has introduced a number of churches projects and given strong emphasis to an evangelistic program of church outreach.

Born in Pennsylvania, the pastor came to Tampa with his parents in 1932. He received his early education in Tampa schools, graduating from Hills-

Born in Pennsylvania, the pastor came to Tampa with his parents in 1932. He received his early education in Tampa schools, graduating from Hillsborough High and Stetson University. His seminary training was obtained at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Sible's early religious experience and church training was in the congregation of Spencer Memorial Baptist Church, where he was baptized in 1938 at age of 8. While a student for one year at the University of Tampa he was a youth leader and music director in his home church.

Active in Boy Scouts, and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, the pastor formerly served on the staff of Camp Brorein in the summer.

The young student became music director of the New Orleans Baptist Church in 1950, and as a ministerial student, took over the services of the

Graham Baptist Church in the town of Graham. He was ordained by the Spencer Memorial Church.

He also served as music director and assistant to the pastor in the First Baptist Church, Winter Park, while studying in Stetson. He was gifted in leadership and was able to gain the cooperation of church youth in numerous activities.

Mr. Sible later served in the Osprey Baptist Church, Osprey, and Southside Baptist Church, Sarasota. This church was a mission chapel when he undertook the pastoral work, and was soon formed into a self-supporting church. While attending the seminary, he served the English Baptist Chapel in English, Ind. He received the B.D. degree in 1961, and returned to Florida to the Northside Baptist Church, Ruskin.

Mr. Sible married Grace Roberts of Tampa who was active in the affairs of the New

Florida to the Northside Baptist Church, Ruskin.

Mr. Sible married Grace Roberts of Tampa who was active in the affairs of the New Orleans Baptist Church. They have two children, Pamela and John, Jr. The family resides at 12105 Forest Hills Dr.

Prophecy Radio Singers Appear

The Voice of Prophecy radio group, broadcasting over 1300 stations from Los Angeles, Calif., will present a program at First Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2909 Nebraska Ave., Wednesday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m.

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World missions conferences top 1 million

Participation in the Southern Baptist Convention's World Missions Conferences returned to the million-plus level during 1991, almost exceeding 1989's all-time record attendance, according to Kenny Rains, director of the conferences for the SBC Brotherhood Commission.

Rains will report to state convention World Missions Conference directors that 1,113,521 persons attended the conferences, which involved 3,917 churches in 187 local Baptist associations. (BP)

Drummond to join Samford faculty

Lewis Drummond, who is retiring as president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been named to an endowed professorship of evangelism at Samford University's divinity school.

Even before Drummond announced in January he would leave the North Carolina seminary, he was mentioned as a likely candidate to be the Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth at Samford's Beeson Divinity School.

Drummond will be the first person to hold the endowed chair at Beeson. Before becoming Southeastern's president in 1988, Drummond held an endowed evangelism position at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary that also bears the name of Southern Baptists' most famous evangelist.

A 1950 Samford graduate, Drummond will join the faculty of the Birmingham, Ala., school July 1. (ABP)

Baptists Committed closes its doors

Baptists Committed, one of several opposition groups that sprang up as conservatives rose to power in the Southern Baptist Convention, is closing its doors.

In a letter to the organization's members, James Slatten, chairman of the executive committee for Baptists Committed, said the four-year-old group will close its national office at the end of May and throw its support behind the new Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Fellowship was formed last year as an umbrella group for moderates who have been unsuccessful in their attempt to wrest control of the 15-million member denomination from conservatives. (ABP)

Clendenen chosen to edit commentary

Ray Clendenen, chairman of the Old Testament and Hebrew department at Criswell College in Dallas, has been nominated to become general editor of *The New American Commentary* at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The board's trustee executive committee voted without opposition April 23 to forward the administration's recommendation of Clendenen to the full board of trustees.

In addition to naming Clendenen as general editor, the recommendation asks trustees to name current editor David Dockery as associate general editor for New Testament and Ken Mathews, associate professor of divinity at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala., as associate general editor for Old Testament. Dockery has been selected to become dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., Aug. 1. (BP)

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Florida CP down 5% in 1st quarter

Although Florida Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program show a five percent decrease for the first three months of 1992 when compared to 1991 figures, state convention officials are "not greatly concerned about the deficit at this time."

Glen Owens, assistant executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, attributed the drop in receipts to "a stagnancy in Florida's economy. Many people think the economy is coming back," he said. "But it's not here yet."

Owens said he has noticed a "wait and see" attitude among the churches. "Churches are waiting to do anything new. It's not a pessimistic attitude but an uncertainty."

From January through March, Florida Baptists gave \$6,072,285.49 to state and worldwide mission causes through the Cooperative Program. At the end of March 1991, Florida Baptists had given \$6,394,233.50. An additional \$36,410.72 designated as "Florida only" funds was sent to the Florida Baptist Convention. This compared with \$19,223.20 of "Florida

Marion DOM Sible dies; widow to serve interim

John H. Sible, director of missions for the Marion Association for the past 15 years, died April 6 following a brief illness. He was 63.

In what may be a first among Florida Baptists, his wife, Grace, has been elected to succeed him on an interim basis.

A graduate of Stetson University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Sible grew up in Tampa and served as pastor of several Florida churches, including: Southside Church, Sarasota; Northside Church, Ruskin; Palm Avenue Church, Tampa; and First Church, Orange City. He also served for five years as minister of education at First Church, Ocala, and as associate pastor/minister of education at First Church, Sanford.

Sible is survived by his wife, Grace; one daughter, Pamela Hannah of Orange City; one son, John H. Jr. of Ocala and one granddaughter.

"I am very honored that the association would consider me," Grace Sible told the *Witness*. "I really feel John would want this work to go on and not falter in any way."

She served as association clerk and secretary during Sible's entire ministry. "We worked together side by side for 41 years," she said. (CP)



Sible

This, That, and the Other



Harvey L. Thomas

Harvey L. Thomas of Southside Church, Lakeland, is now serving as Minister of Music for Bethel Church. Brother Thomas is giving full time to evangelistic singing and conducting singing schools.

Bethel Church has just closed a Youth Revival in which Eugene D. Byrd of B.B.I. did the preaching, and Brother Thomas led the singing. There were 4 additions for baptism. Brother Thomas will conduct the singing in a revival in Kathleen Church in May.

Dr. Homer G. Lindsay, First Church, Jacksonville, just led First Church, Carlsbad, N. M., J. Melvin Ray, pastor, in a revival resulting in 159 additions, with 109 for baptism.

Anclote Church, Elfers, reports two weeks' Youth Revival in which Kenneth Tucker, 22 year old pastor of Trilby Church, was evangelist, and Pastor Herbert M. Wright, song leader.

There were 5 rededications, 3 added by letter and 7 for baptism.

First Church, DeFuniak Springs, held revival April 9-19. There were 8 additions by baptism and 6 by letter. Pastor Virgil M. Gardner conducted the revival, and Shelton Phinney, educational director, directed the music.

CHICAGO — (IB) — Messengers who come to the Southern Baptist Convention by auto will find it cheaper to park their cars on the Municipal Parking lot on the lakefront. Cars may be parked for 50c for 24 hours. After parking the car take a shuttle bus to the hotel. Ride bus, street car or double up on taxis to the auditorium. Down town parking is 75c for the first hour plus additional cost for extra hours. There is little parking area near the Coliseum. Some hotels have attached garages with rates of \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day.

FLORIDA SENIOR CAPTURES HIGH STUDENT AWARD

Bill O'Rork, 26 year-old senior from Orlando, was chosen "Student of the Week" at Oklahoma Baptist University recently.

O'Rork, a veteran of Navy service, was a pharmacist's mate second class attached to the Marines and participated in campaigns on Bougainville and Guam. On one occasion, when his ship was torpedoed, he spent two and a half hours in the water before being rescued.

He holds the Presidential unit citation, the Pacific ribbon with three battle stars, and the Purple Heart.

O'Rork transferred to O.B.U. from the University of Florida last year and is majoring in photography.

While a student at Florida, he was secretary of the BSU council, official photographer for the school magazine, and a photographer for the school annual.

At O.B.U., O'Rork is a lab instructor and a university photographer. He is a member of Life Service Band.

Dr. Yarbrough's course in New Testament is his favorite and he plans to become a traveling missionary photographer covering all mission fields.

STETSON—(Continued from page 8)

Baptist pastors. Some members of its faculty have been pastors as well as outstanding educators. Members of its teaching staff are all members of Christian churches.

Stetson has amply demonstrated through its growth and influence that a church-related educational institution meets an imperative need in our national life for more men and women of Christian character and ideals. The sacrifices of all who have contributed to it during the years have made it possible for the University to send out more and more young men and women to help make the world a better place in which to live. Stetson proudly points to the fact that she has sent out 19 foreign missionaries.

Florida Baptists can with confidence and assurance render a great service to the young people of their community by directing their attention, when about to select a college, to the advantages offered by Stetson. The Christian ties with the church gained in youth are made more significant at Stetson through organizations within the institution which give the student's character a well-rounded development.

Stetson, without a doubt, is one of the greatest assets of Florida Baptists, as well as of the state and nation. Christian ideals and character, effectively cultivated at Stetson, are the hope of the future. I often wonder if we fully appreciate the great value we have in this institution and give it the support and devotion to which it is entitled. Stetson has had a glorious past but has even a more promising future. With over 100 students studying for the ministry, with multiplied hundreds receiving the advantage of Christian culture, who can estimate its meaning to the future?

There's A Great Day Coming!

By MERRILL D. MOORE

A Great Day! The twenty-fifth anniversary of the birth of the Cooperative Program, set by State Convention and Southern Baptist Convention action for observance on June 11, 1950, or nearest convenient Sunday.

The Purpose of the Day: (1) **Thanksgiving**—to express gratitude to God for His blessings poured out upon Southern Baptists, and for the progress we have been able to make because of the Cooperative Program; (2) **Education**—to inform all our people about the worth of the Cooperative Program, and the contributions it has made; (3) **Inspiration**—to motivate our people to give undivided loyalty and support to the Cooperative Program plans; (4) **Offering**—to bring a love gift which will commemorate the birthday, honor Christ, and provide the advance of His work through the Cooperative Program.

Observe the Day: For the sake of your people, who need to know more about the Cooperative Program, and what their larger support of it will accomplish. Lead them to greater missionary achievement through the observance of this day.

Take the Offering: For the sake of this very special occasion, for the sake of the people and a deepened missionary interest, for the sake of every State cause, for the sake of every Southern Baptist cause, for the sake of Foreign Mission advance. This is an authorized supplemental offering this year and is a part of the program, just as the Home and Foreign Missionary offering, the Lottie Moon offering, etc.

Stand Up and Be Counted for the Cooperative Program on Cooperative Program Day.



John H. Sible

John H. Sible has just assumed his duties as Pastor's Assistant and Music Director at New Orleans Church, Tampa, J. Earl Sharp, pastor. Bro. Sible came from First Church, Graham, where he was pastor while a student in Stetson University.

He has already led the singing in the recent revival conducted here by Pastor Pat Wimberly of Bartow.

CHARTER MEMBERS

V.A. Saunders	Mrs. J.C. McCrea
Mary Saunders	Horace Driggers
Jack Holland	Mrs. Freddie Driggers
Harley Holland	Lloyd Holland
Florence Shumard	K.D. Cowart
Clara Shumard	Mrs. Axie Cowart
Edith Holland	Malissa Skinner
W.E. Stephens	Mrs. W.E. Stephens
Idella Stephens	Mrs. J.M. Rogers
Eunice Hopkins	Mrs. Mandie Shumard
Flossie Shumard	Turner
Ragan	

PASTORS

J.A. Redd	Gordon Halbert
E.L. Hendry	Gene Hitchcock
John Coker	Grady Herndon
Ishen Murphy	John Sible
J.W. Long	Earl Haynes
John Coker	Clyde Burke, Interim
John Roberts	W.R. Jones
Joe McLeod	J.F. Gill
Vernon Coker	Edward Owens
W.C. Miller	Wm. J. Guess, Interim
Carl Alderman	Herbert Goodroe
Henry Alderman	Hubert Webb, Interim
O.C. Guess	Daniel Rupp
Ray Forbes	M. Glenn Smith
J.M. Gilbreath	Royce Beasley
Gail Smith	G.R. Henson, Interim
Henry Johnson	Hudson Slaughter
J.W. Hinton	

MINISTERS ORDAINED BY CHURCH

O.C. Guess	Kenneth Conner
Tom Smith	Vernon Bass
William J. Guess	Kenneth Holland

Director of Missions Honored

Our Director of Missions, John H. Sible, was recognized as the Director of Missions for the year 1990 by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in July. A plaque was given by Dr. Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, citing that Mr. Sible had contributed significantly to missions. He pointed out that Mr. Sible had led Marion Baptist Association to cooperate with the Alachua Baptist Association in supporting a new mission at Citrus Springs. The First Baptist Church of Dunnellon was one of the sponsoring churches. He also led three churches to sponsor a new mission in cooperative sponsorship. Oakcrest Baptist, Highlands Baptist, and Wyomina Park Baptist sponsored College Road Baptist Church. His work with black pastors led two black Baptist Churches to join the Marion Baptist Association. They were Mount Moriah Baptist Church, and New Saint John Baptist Church. He has served as an officer with the State Directors of Missions Fellowship. Marion Baptist Association was one of the first associations in Florida to use BTN. The association utilized computers before the convention offered a computer program for associations.

When Mr. Sible started as Director of Missions in 1977, there were 35 churches in the association, and to date there are 47 churches and 2 missions. The two missions include a Korean Baptist Mission sponsored by the Wyomina Park Baptist Church and a Spanish Mission sponsored by Highlands Baptist Church.

Mr. Sible served as President of The Greater Ocala Ministerial Association when Interfaith Emergency Services was formed. A Horse Farm Chaplaincy program was formed with his help to meet the needs of the horse farm community.

The recognition that he received from the Home Mission Board was for the Town and Country Associations East of the Mississippi river. Two awards are given each year.

Picture of Mr Sible
Marion Baptist Association 1991



JOHN H. SIBLE
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
MARION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
1977 - Present

**FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS FELLOWSHIP
PRESIDENT**

Our Director of Missions, John H. Sible, was elected President of the Director of Missions Fellowship, Florida Baptist Convention for 1991-92.

The Fellowship met in session in Pensacola, November 10-11, 1991. There are 49 Associations in the State.

Mr. Sible received his education from John B. Stetson University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity degree.

He has held many positions in ministry, namely, Pastor for 18 years, Minister of Music and Minister of Education before becoming Director of Missions. He has held this position for 14 years. He was chosen as Director of Missions of the Year in 1990, by the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention. He served as President of the Greater Ocala Ministerial Association and as Chaplain and Advisor to the Boys Scouts of America Troop 440. An article was published in the Sunday School Leadership Magazine.

In every association where he pastored and served, he was active. Serving as Sunday School Director, Royal Ambassador Director and Music Director as well as serving on committees. He has served on committees in the Florida Baptist Convention and as a Special Consultant for the state Sunday School Department. He serves as a deacon consultant for the Florida Baptist Convention.

He became the first Director of Missions to serve this association in 1977. Heretofore, the association was one of three associations with a Director. Since that time, the association has grown from 34 churches and one mission to 47 churches and two missions. The two missions being a Spanish Mission and a Korean Mission.



DEDICATION
REV. JOHN H. SIBLE
February 9, 1929 - April 6, 1992
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
MARION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
1977 - 1992

John H. Sible was born on February 9, 1929 in Burnham, Pennsylvania.

At the age of 9, John Sible was 'born again' in Tampa, Florida at the Spencer Memorial Baptist Church.

Mr. Sible received his primary education in Tampa, graduating from Hillsborough High School.

At the age of 17, the Lord called him into full-time service and upon his graduation from high school, he entered John B. Stetson University, Deland, Florida. On January 1, 1951, while still in college, he married Miss Grace Roberts. They were married for 41 years and having two children, Pamela and John, Jr.

Marion Baptist Association 1992

Sible received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stetson University and a Master of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

While in seminary, he started a mission in Indiana. At that time, the Southern Baptist work in Indiana had just begun. He held many pastorates for 18 years as well as other positions on staff. His last position, before becoming Director of Missions, was as Minister of Education for First Baptist Church, Ocala, Florida.

Sible was active in every association where he pastored and served. He held associational positions as Music Director, Sunday School Director and Royal Ambassador Director as well as serving on committees for associational work.

Mr. Sible served on committees for the Florida Baptist Convention and as a Sunday School consultant and Deacon consultant.

He became Director of Missions for the Marion Baptist Association in 1977, as the first full-time director. At that time the association had 35 churches and 1 mission. Since that time, under Mr. Sible's direction, the association has grown to 47 churches and 2 missions, including Korean and Spanish missions.

In 1990, the Home Mission Board selected Mr. Sible as "Director of Missions of the Year in a Town and Country Association" for the eastern part of the Southern Baptist Convention. Additionally, he was president of the Greater Ocala Ministerial Association when Interfaith Emergency Services began. He served as Chaplain and Advisor of Boy Scout Troop #440 and was an eagle scout as well. An article, written by Mr. Sible, has been published in the Sunday School Leadership magazine.

During his tenure as Director of Missions, Mr. Sible instituted the "Missions Investors" program. This funding program was designed to assist in starting new churches and missions.

At the time of his death in 1992, Mr. Sible was serving as the President of the Director of Missions Fellowship in Florida.

Rev. John H. Sible will long be remembered as a good and faithful servant.



DEDICATION
MRS. M. GRACE SIBLE
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
MARION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
1992 - 1994

Rev John & Grace Sible began serving the Marion association in 1977 as Director of Missions and Associational Secretary. They served together until Rev Sible's death in April, 1992. At that time Mrs. Sible was asked to assume the position of Director of Missions. Her 15 years of service in the assn office made her uniquely qualified to serve as DOM.

The Sibles were married on January 1, 1951 and have two children, Pamela and John, Jr.

Mrs Grace Sible was commissioned as the Director of Missions for the Marion Baptist Association in December, 1992. During her tenure she assisted in starting three missions and four full time churches in the association, including, Emmanuel, Candler, First, Nazaret Bautista & Primera Hispana Bautista. At the time of Mrs Sible's retirement, April 15, '94, there were 50 churches & four missions in the assn.

"Amazing Grace" will not only be remembered as Florida's first female Director of Missions but as a DOM that loved her association and loved to serve the Lord. We are thankful for her faithfulness!