

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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Sibley, James graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of Palma Sola Bay Baptist Church, Bradenton 1975-1982. Sibley and his wife, Kathy Sibley served as missionaries to Israel for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. They had two daughters.

Palma Sola Bay Baptist Church

4000 75th Street West
Bradenton, Florida 34209
941-792-2884

2001

In 1973 some members of the West Bradenton Baptist Church became concerned that a mission work be started in west Bradenton. A Missions Committee was formed and planning meetings held during the summer of 1974 to establish the 75th Street Baptist Mission. The mission began meeting November 3, 1974 in the Elks Lodge building on 75th Street W. and on November 24, 1974 a decision was made to search for a pastor. The mission was officially organized on November 6, 1977 as Palma Sola Bay Baptist Church. The first year (1975) there was an average Sunday School attendance of 55 and total membership of 83. Worship attendance now exceeds 600 each Sunday with a resident membership of 1144.

Property was located and with the help of West Bradenton Baptist Church, Southwest Florida Baptist Association, and Florida Baptist Convention, 3.6 acres on the southwest corner of 75th Street W. and 40th Avenue W. were purchased in December 1975. The two original buildings were erected and dedicated April 1977. A third building for education was erected in 1982. In August 1983, two adjacent lots were purchased, increasing the property size to 4.5 acres. A new sanctuary building was built and dedicated November 1985. A final building was donated in 1992 as an all-purpose facility for fellowships and activities.

Rev. James Sibley was the first pastor of the new mission. He started April 1975 and continued until the fall of 1982 when the Foreign Mission Board appointed him and his wife as missionaries to Israel. T. Mike Brumley served as pastor from June 1983 until November 1987. James Killoran came as Interim Pastor in September 1987, was called as pastor in 1988, and served as Senior Pastor until June, 2001.

The staff has grown over the years. Mike McGrew joined the staff as Minister of Praise and Worship in 1987. In addition, there are three other full-time staff members today; Minister to Students, Minister of Life Management, and Minister of Administration and Education. Palma Sola Bay Baptist continues to stand as a witness to the community through exciting, praise-filled worship services, an effective counseling ministry, numerous Bible study and discipleship opportunities, and meaningful activities for all age groups.

In 1998, Palma Sola Bay Baptist approved the sponsorship of a new Mission church in East Manatee County. Countryside Family Fellowship has purchased land and is preparing to build because of the mission-mindedness of Palma Sola Bay Baptist Church.

Manatee
Southern 2001

Moving to Israel is great, leaving congregation is hard

Rev. Sibley departing Palma Sola Baptist

MICHAEL ROSS
Herald Religion Writer

A Bradenton pastor's 20-year dream of being assigned as a missionary to Israel is coming true, but the Rev. James Sibley admits that leaving his congregation is not easy for him.

Sibley, 34, pastor of the Palma Sola Bay Baptist Church for the last eight years, recently was assigned by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to organize an evangelical congregation in Eilat, Israel.

Sibley came to Bradenton in March, 1975, when the 45 members of the Palma Sola Bay Baptist Church were meeting in the Elks Lodge. Now, the 270-member congregation worships in its new church at 4000 75th St. W. in Bradenton.

Sibley, who graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, said that when he came to Bradenton he told the congregation that he believed that God had called him when he was 14 to be a missionary to Israel.

The minister said that the opportunity recently came when the Southern Baptist Convention decided to appoint someone to southern Israel to pastor a small group of evangelical Christians who have not yet organized.

"I'm excited about going," Sibley said, "but it is difficult to leave. I have not kept myself aloof from the congregation."

Sibley said that members of the Palma Sola Bay Baptist Church have been helpful to him since he announced on Nov. 21 that he was being considered for the overseas position. Sibley received definite word from church officials on Dec. 7 that he would be going to Israel.

Sibley said that his wife, Kathy, and their two children also are excited about the new assignment. The Sibleys have two daughters, 5 and 8.



The Rev. James Sibley and wife Kathy

"My wife and I wondered how the children would accept the change, but they are looking forward to living in the land where Jesus lived," he said.

The Sibleys will be leaving next week for three months of orientation in Georgia before going to Israel, and the pastor admits that the most difficult part of going is the leaving.

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For information cal

The Grace Bible Co in Sacred music at Church at 7 p.m. Su

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Services on Sunday
Sunday Church School
Wednesday Evening
Prayer & Bible Study

Rev. Wayne
Rev. Michael A.
"The Church Wh

SOUTH

17th Ave



Rev. J. Sterling
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