

## **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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**Sibole, James W.** (1909-2014) was ordained at Forest Baptist Church, Vero Beach. He graduated from the Baptist Bible Institute. Sibole served as a Southern Baptist minister for 60 years. During his ministry he served at Wildwood Baptist Church, Bartow; Melrose Park Baptist Church, Miami and Miami Lakes Baptist Church where he retired after 30 years of service. He his wife, Vera Sibole (1921-2002) had one son. He remarried Dorothy "Dottie" Ivey Sost Sible

## **View James Sibole's Obituary on Sun-Sentinel.com and share memories**

Sibole, James W., 95, of Hollywood, died August 3, 2014. He was ordained at Forest Park Baptist Church. He graduated from Baptist Bible Institute with an Associate Degree. During his ministry he served at Wildwood Baptist, Bartow, FL, Melrose Park Baptist Church, Miami, and retired from Miami Lakes Baptist Church, after 30 years. He served as a Southern Baptist Minister for 60 years. Survived by his wife, Dorothy (Dotty); son, Jerry (Brenda); step-children, Sandra Moore (Daniel), Kenneth Akins & Janet Perez (Luis); sister, Barbara Berry (John); grandchildren, Brianna, Danielle & Justin; and several nieces & nephews from The Victor Crease and Bob Layland Families. Memorial Service will be held Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014, 2:00 p.m. at Taft Street Baptist Church. [www.bpfamilycare.com](http://www.bpfamilycare.com)



## Monticello Baptists Break Ground For New Building

Part of congregation present for service is shown. The building, to be set in an L-shaped piece of property to the rear of the church, will be a two-story brick with ten rooms to take care of additional Sunday school classes, some have folding doors, which can be made into three large rooms when needed. Facilities for indoor socials will also be provided.

In the ground-breaking inset, holding the shovel is Sunday School Superintendent E. S. Blair. To his left is A. E. Rhodes, Chairman of Deacons; to Blair's right, Pastor H. O. Hughes; in the background, reading left to right, J. B. Shuman, the man cut in half; Bill Scruggs, Jim Smith; all deacons.

Pastor J. H. Avery, First Church, Panama City, says in a recent issue of his weekly promotional bulletin, *The First Baptist Evangel*:

### "NURTURE YOUR MIND BY A PROPER READING DIET"

In a proper reading diet the Bible heads the list, but for Baptists the following periodicals will furnish much information and inspiration. Both this information and inspiration derived from a study of God's Word and religious literature contributes to a healthy Christian spirit and a Christian attitude toward the work of promoting His glorious kingdom. Every family in our church should receive the following periodicals. Please subscribe for them immediately."

- and then lists descriptions and prices of these periodicals in this order:
1. The Florida Baptist Witness
  2. The Commission
  3. Home Missions
  4. Home Life
  5. The First Baptist Evangel.
- Your editor wants to commend this as one good step for any pastor in growing and strengthening and great Christians and great churches.

In a second engagement with them, Dr. Homer G. Lindsay will assist Pastor Seary Garrison and Bull Street Church, Savannah, Ga. in a week of revival services, March 20-26.

He will also preach in First Church, Carlsbad, N. M., in the Simultaneous Revivals April 10-23.

Anthony Church, Marion Association reports in their bulletin that since the coming of Pastor G. C. Eubanks a little more than two years ago, 60 souls have been added, church income and property value doubled, attendance increased, Sunday school enrolment up from 96 to 154, with average attendance up from 50 to 119.

## NEW FLORIDA PASTOR RECEIVES DEGREE

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 2.—The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary awarded degrees to five ministers today, at convocation exercises opening the spring term: Newburn V. Ragsdale, Fort Payne, Ala., and James Livingston White III, Norfolk, Va., bachelor of divinity degrees. Nelson Eugene Mandrell, Frederick, Okla., master of theology, and Robert Sydney Cooper, Washington, D. C., and Allen J. Freeman, Lake City, Fla., doctor of theology.

A total of 854 ministers are studying at the seminary this year, from 36 states and nine foreign countries, according to Dr. Ellis A. Fuller, president. Degrees will be awarded a graduating class of 178 at the annual spring commencement exercises, May 5.

Note: Allen J. Freeman will begin soon his pastorate in First Church, Lake City. James L. White III is a grandson of the late Dr. J. L. White, long-time pastor at Miami, and son of the late J. L. White, Jr., pastor in Norfolk until his recent death, and one-time coach at University of Florida.

John L. Bray, pastor Raiford Church, is available for supply at some church without a pastor. He may be reached: 1044 La Rue St., South Jacksonville 7, Fla., or phone 9-3138.

### LODGES

Jeff D. Ray in Home Life  
 Sam Jones said, "The Mooses, the Elks, and the Eagles have organized and I am expecting the buzzards to organize next." In deprecating the multitude of lodges, preachers usually say, "I have nothing to say against secret orders." I have not either but I cannot think of a good reason why a Christian needs belong to one. A loyal church member can use all his cars on the main line and then have more track space than he can fill.

## RESOLUTION

Whereas our pastor, Brother Malvin C. Swicegood, resigned the pastorage of Delaney Street Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla. effective November 27, 1949 to become pastor of the Reeds Baptist Church of Lexington, North Carolina, be it resolved that we express our appreciation of the service he and his wife have rendered to our church.

It was with great regret that Brother Swicegood and his good wife left our fellowship here but we pray God's blessings upon them as they labor together in a new field whereunto God has called them.

Brother Swicegood was called as pastor of Delaney Street Church in December of 1944, and God has blessed us during his pastorage with five successful years of growth. A total of 486 members were added to the church membership during these five years, 226 by baptism.

Shortly after he began his pastorage, a pastorium was built. Under the pastorium was completed, a building fund was started for a new educational building.

For a short period of time Brother Swicegood preached each Sunday afternoon at the Christmas Baptist Church and was instrumental in erecting a new church building there.

One of his greatest joys was the establishing of the Forrest Park Mission, sponsored by Delaney Street Church, which one year later was organized into a church with 44 charter members.

During 1946-1947, Brother Swicegood served a successful term as moderator of the Wekiwa Association.

Rev. and Mrs. Swicegood are natives of North Carolina. They have two children, Russell and Sarah Ann. We hope that again God will see fit to call our Brother back to Florida, a capable and willing man of God. Our prayers are with them as they carry on the Lord's work.

Therefore, we further resolve that one copy of this resolution be placed upon the minutes of Delaney Street Church, one copy sent to Brother Swicegood, one copy to Reeds Baptist Church to which he is called and one be sent to the Baptist Witness for publication.

Mrs. Jack Pipkin, Church Clerk

## This, That, and the Other

### NEW BUSINESS MANAGER AT BIBLE INSTITUTE



C. N. Walker

C. N. Walker, for 11 years pastor of Bethel Church, has accepted the position as business manager and teacher in Baptist Bible Institute, Lakeland. He has resigned his church and moved on the campus.

Walker is a graduate of Stetson University and Newton Theological Institution.

President Gambrell says, "We are happy to have Mr. and Mrs. Walker in full time service at B.B.I."

E. B. Booker, Timberlake, N. C., is in Florida on vacation and will be available for supply August 6 and 13. He may be addressed: 3132 Kensington Ave., Tampa, Fla.

Bethany Church, South Florida Association, just closed a two weeks' meeting with A. J. Johnson of Flat River, Mo., as evangelist. There were 13 for baptism, 3 by letter, 1 dedicated life, 1 rededication and 1 licensed to the ministry. Brother Leo Smith was music director. George W. Dunn is pastor.

On July 16, Bethany Church, South Florida Association, licensed Brother Elvin Hall, son of Olin Hall, pastor of West Thonotassosa Church, Tampa Bay Association, to the Gospel Ministry. He is available for supply while waiting to enter school and may be reached through his pastor, George W. Dunn, Rt. 2, Box 247-A, Plant City, Fla., Phone 62-383.

Pastor Guy Owen, Chattahoochee, Ga., was evangelist in a 10 day revival recently held in Wildwood Chapel, Bartow. There were 19 additions (14 by baptism) and numerous dedications to definite Christian service.

This chapel, sponsored by First Church, Bartow, P. R. Wimberly, pastor, is growing rapidly under the leadership of Pastor J. W. Sibole, student at Baptist Bible Institute, Lakeland.

### ALLAPATTAH, MIAMI, ORDAINS TWO YOUNG MINISTERS

Upon the authority of Allapattah Church, Miami, Dr. John Haldeman, pastor, called a presbytery for the purpose of examining for ordination to the full gospel ministry, Hugh Thomas McKinley and Harry Dean Martin.

The presbytery composed of Pastors John H. Haldeman, Allapattah, Harold Davidson, Flagler Street, Lloyd N. Whyte, Shenandoah, Alfred A. Staples, Miami Springs, Ralph E. Gwin, Stanton Memorial, and Ladislau Biro, University, met in Dr. Haldeman's study on Friday, June 9 at 11:00 a.m. with the candidates. Haldeman was elected moderator and examiner, and Ralph Gwin, clerk. Both candidates are members of Allapattah. Harry Dean Martin has been called to Oakdale Church, Athens, Ala., which requested his ordination. Hugh Thomas McKinley has been elected to the staff of Allapattah Church, which requested his ordination. The two brethren were examined as to their Christian experience and call to preach. The presbytery went carefully into their doctrinal beliefs regarding the Inspiration of the Scriptures, the Person of Christ, the Church—its Offices and Ordinances, the Doctrine of Salvation, and Final Things. Answers given were thoroughly satisfactory. The presbytery made unanimous recommendation that they be ordained.

On Sunday, June 11 at 3:00 p.m., Allapattah Church assembled together with the presbytery and the two candidates, and the Church unanimously voted to proceed with the ordination. Ordination Prayer was led by Ralph Gwin. Following the Laying on of Hands, Charge to the Church was delivered by Harold Davidson, and Charge to the Candidates by Alfred Staples. A beautiful Bible was presented to each of the candidates in behalf of the Allapattah Church by Lloyd Whyte. Mr. Robert L. Jones rendered a solo, "How Beautiful Upon The Mountains." Ordination Sermon was delivered by Dr. J. J. Owen, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, Southern Seminary, Louisville, and supply pastor, First Church, Miami, for the summer.

### EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

Spencer Memorial Baptist Church, Tampa, observed the eighth anniversary of Pastor J. Elwood Rawls on July 30. A Building Fund Program was launched at the morning service and a special offering for the Building Fund taken.

During the eight years of this pastorate there have been received into the church 1,815 members; 988 by letter and 827 by baptism. Three Building programs have been successfully completed. The church property is valued at \$255,000.00. Future plans call for erection of an auditorium seating 1,200 and a Baby Land that will adequately take care of 8 departments—Birth through 5 years of age.

### MOULTON ACCEPTS ORANGE PARK CHURCH

George E. Moulton has resigned at Branford to accept the call of Orange Park Church, Jacksonville Association. He will begin the new work Aug. 1.

During his three and one half years at Branford there have been 114 members added, attendance increased in all departments, extensive improvement and remodeling of church property and grounds, and new pews, pulpit furniture, fans, pianos, lighting, public address system and chimes purchased.

Donald Martin has resigned after two years at Brooker Church, during which 62 members were added and large growth experienced in Sunday school and Training Union, to accept the call of the Jacksonville Church, near Newberry.

Homer G. Lindsay Jr., son of Dr. Homer G. Lindsay pastor, First Church, Jacksonville supplied for his father at both hours Sunday July 16. Homer is a Junior in Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, and also pastor of Hobbs Valley and Palo Pinto Baptist churches in Texas. While at home for a visit during July he supplied the pulpit on successive Sundays for the following Jacksonville churches: Lawtrey, Lackawanna, First, Franklin Street, and Woodlawn.

Layman's Rally-Revival will be held at Hogan Church, Jacksonville, J. C. Wright, pastor, August 6-13. Speakers will be: H. M. Smith, R. C. Dunham, E. L. Scott, J. F. Hammond, R. R. Hendry and J. T. Woodall.

Two gifts recently received by First Church, Cocoa, have launched a program for the erection of a new parsonage. A \$500 gift was received earlier, and on July 23 a check for \$3,500 was presented to the church. Plans for the new building are being drawn under the direction of the trustees. James A. Sawyer is the pastor.

Evangelist John L. Bray has just closed an 11 day revival meeting with First Church, Deerfield Beach, Everett C. Lerch, pastor.

Gene Hitchcock, June graduate of Stetson, who was ordained at First Church, Winter Haven July 16, and Mrs. Hitchcock and their son, have moved to Sarasota where he is interim pastor of the Austrey Church.

Amelia Church, Dade City, just closed a two weeks' revival with Pastor L. O. Calhoun, Eagle Lake, preaching, Kenneth Tucker, Tampa, playing the piano, and Aubrey Stancil, Lacochee, leading the singing. Three were received for baptism. H. T. Burnette is pastor.

Frank M. Pearl, graduate of Stetson, now a student at Southwestern Seminary has accepted the call to First Church, Donie, Texas.

# THE MIAMI NEWS

4A

Saturday, February 22, 1958

*There's 87 Years Between Them*

## Church's Junior, Senior Members Mark Their Birthdays Together



Miami News Photo by Korolien

**GEORGE S. ELLERY 93; MIKE SIBOLE 6**  
They Enjoy A Birthday Cake

grandchildren and one great, great-grandchild.

He attends Melrose Heights Church faithfully and is an honorary deacon.

Mike and "grandpa" are especially busy right now preparing for a revival to be conducted at the church tomorrow through March 2.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Sundays and at 8 p.m. each week day.

The Rev. Kenneth Hawkins, pastor of Gulfridge Park Baptist Church, Brooksville, will be the evangelist.

By LOUISE LEYDEN

Religion Writer of The Miami News

Many winters have come and gone since "grandpa" George S. Ellery jumped into his wagon and started off on a preaching tour in Southern Ohio, a task which lay heavily upon his heart when a young minister.

But that didn't keep him from teaming up with little Mike Sibole who hopes to become a minister, for a double birthday celebration this week.

"Grandpa" observed his 93rd birthday Tuesday and Mike marked his sixth birthday Thursday.

Both had separate celebrations at home but both found time to

get together for a joint celebration and to cut a birthday cake.

### Oldest Member At Melrose

"Grandpa" is the oldest member of Melrose Heights Baptist and Mike, the son of the pastor, the Rev. James W. Sibole, is the youngest.

Many readers of The Miami News will remember the stories about little Mike when he lost his eyes about two years ago because of cancer. Many will remember, too, the courage of the little chap, who is studying at Miramar School, laying the foundation for a useful life in the community.

There are two things Mike wants to do, one is to be an evangelist and the other is to play the piano.

His seminary days are in the future, but he will start studying piano at once.

### Gets Piano On Birthday

He received a piano for a birthday present and will begin taking lessons Monday from the church organist, Mrs. Charles Kastler.

"Grandpa" Ellery came to Miami 15 years ago. He lives with his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Arthur Ellery, 1280 NW 209th Terr. He has 18 grandchildren, 29 great-

## Church Votes Tomorrow On Rev. Sibole

The congregation of **Melrose Heights Baptist** Church, 3200 NW 32nd St., will meet in a business session following the 11 a.m. service tomorrow to vote on calling the Rev. James W. Sibole, formerly of Forest Park **Baptist**, Orlando, as pastor of the church.

He is the father of Mike Sibole, who began his studies at Miramar School this week. The plucky little lad lost his remaining eye to cancer recently and the family has moved to Miami in order to be near him while he is receiving special instruction for the blind at the school. The family formerly lived in Miami.



Rev. Sibole

The Rev. Rex Duckett, pastor of **Melrose Heights** for the past several years, will retire from active service the latter part of this month after a long ministry in Florida and other states.

## BLIND MOST OF LIFE

# *Minister's Son To Preach*

The gifted young son of a minister will put aside his regular duties at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow to step into the shoes of



**MIKE**

for the closing event of Youth Week. He will preach on "Salvation" from notes prepared on a Braille typewriter — as he has been blind the greater part of his life.

At the 11 a.m. service Mike will join his brother, Jerry, in singing a special hymn preceding the personal testimonies of a group of church youth.

his father at the 7:30 p.m. service of Melrose Heights Baptist Church, 3200 NW 32nd Ave.

Mike Sibole, son of the Rev. James W. Sibole, will occupy the pulpit

The Rev. James W. Sibole, former Orlando pastor, will take over the pulpit at Melrose Heights Baptist Church beginning with the 11 a.m. Sunday service.

He is the father of Mike Sibole, the boy whose eyes were removed to save him from cancer.

**James W. Sibole, First Pastor, 1950 - 1954**



James W. Sibole was the Wildwood mission pastor and became the first pastor of Wildwood Baptist Church. He was also the first pastor to live in the pastorium. Rev. Sibole was born March 14, 1919 in Detroit, MI, but moved to Miami, Florida when he was seven years old. He graduated from Miami schools and worked as an insurance salesman. In 1939 he married Miss Vera Malone, also of Miami. On January 1, 1949 James and Vera Sibole began attending classes at the Baptist Bible Institute, Lakeland, Florida. Rev. Sibole was still a student at BBI when he became Wildwood Chapel's pastor. He continued his course of studies and upon graduation had been Wildwood's pastor for several months. Altogether he was pastor of the mission and church for 4 years and 8 months. He and his wife, Vera, had two sons, James Michael and Jerry.



Rev. "Jim" Sibole is now 92 years old and retired in 1985. His first wife, Vera, died in 2002 and he has since remarried to Dorothy "Dottie" Ivey Sost. Jim and Dottie Sibole live at 200 Asbury Rd., Apt. 103, Hollywood, FL 33024-1107. Home phone number is (954)987-2199.

**James Thomas Fann, Second Pastor, 1954 - 1955**



James Thomas Fann was the second pastor of Wildwood Baptist Church coming September 1954 and leaving November 1955. He married Mildred Bernice McLeod and had four sons. Originally he was an agent for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company and resigned this position to go into full-time ministry at a drastic reduction in pay. He was ordained at Wildwood Baptist Church by the Main Street Baptist Pastor and Deacons and preached his first sermon at Wildwood. When Fann left the church 14 months later, he went to Live Oak, Florida, and baptized over 40 people the first year.

FBW Oct 23, 1980 p.6

On Oct. 5, Miami Lakes Church, Miami Lakes celebrated the 24th anniversary of pastor James W. Sibole. A love offering was presented to him and his wife.

and threw it out the window of the car. Thanks to God's help he never smoked another cigarette.

Rev. and Mrs. Dann currently live in Winter Haven. In 2001, he will be 80 and she will be 76.

**James**

***Testimony of John Sibole who was graduated from Baptist Bible Institute in 1952.***

The first time I ever heard of Baptist Bible Institute was at the Florida Baptist Convention in 1949. At that time the president of Baptist Bible Institute, Dr. Gambrell, made his report about a school that would accept a God-called man and prepare him for the ministry. My wife, Vera, and I talked to him at the close of the service and prepared to attend Baptist Bible Institute in January.

I suspect many students in these days would not choose a school like Baptist Bible Institute. There are many reasons for this. Our apartment was furnished with a small foot tub in which we kept a 25 pound block of ice—this was our refrigerator. We had no air conditioner in our new home nor in any of the classrooms. One tar-paper covered building was both study hall and library.

The great advantage of Baptist Bible Institute in those days was its God-called and dedicated professors such as Dr. Denham, Rev. Bill Smith, Rev. and Mrs. Walker, Rev. Pat Wimberly, and others.

Baptist Bible Institute gave me a foundation in the Bible and prepared us to share the Word with others. I have served three churches in my ministry: Wildwood Baptist Church at Bartow, Forest Park Baptist Church in Orlando, and Melrose Heights Baptist Church in Miami Lakes, Miami, the latter for thirty years.

I remember with great fondness the wonderful fellowship and love that permeated the campus. It was a wonderful time of learning and of growing in the Lord Jesus. After I graduated, I

was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees and voted to move Baptist Bible Institute to Graceville. My prayers shall always be for this school as it prepares students for greater service for our Lord.

***Testimony of William H. Anderson who was graduated from Baptist Bible Institute in 1955.***

Having come to conversion and salvation in the spring of 1949, and not having any connection with any church up until that time, and having never read over a dozen chapters in the Bible, it was all a new and happy experience for me at twenty-two years of age.

When I was converted, it was in cold blood; I mean it was genuine. After my baptism, I became a member of a cooperating Baptist church of the Southern Baptist Convention. Since that point in time, I have been in regular church worship services Sunday and Wednesday at least ninety-eight percent of the time.

I was called to preach in the early fall of 1951. My call to preach was as vivid as my experience of salvation. There is no question about either one, and never has been.

I had heard for some time about the Baptist Bible Institute and enrolled there in the first part of January 1952. I had been a Christian slightly less than three years. My exposure to the Bible and to church life had been short but I had gained some knowledge from studying the Bible in a Sunday School and on my own and listening to preaching by my pastors and other preachers. I had a high school education when I enrolled at Baptist Bible Institute. I believe at that time Baptist Bible Institute would accept you if you had been called to preach even if you didn't have but a second or third grade education. That was basically why the school was started and what had been in Brother Frank Faris' heart in starting it.

I don't think the Christian atmosphere could have been better anywhere than it was at Baptist Bible Institute. It was like