

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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Sikes, Ernest O., Jr. (1930-2009) was born in Miami, Florida the son of Ernest O., Sr. and Pauline Knox Sikes. He graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sikes served as pastor of churches in Georgia and Florida including Gateway Baptist Church, Coral Gables, Red Road Chapel and First Baptist Church, Jan Phyl Village. He served as director of missions for Manatee Southern Baptist Association, 1981-1989. Sikes and his wife, Willene Fender Sikes had four children.



The Miami News
Sat, Mar 28, 1970 · Page 2

hed	Florida City	840 N
12a.	101 S. Redland Road	Rev. E
941	Gateway	Nort
222	6500 S.W. 97 Ave.	13501
1211	Rev. Ernest O. Sikes	Rev. F
100	Gethsemane Spanish	Ojus
		18801
		Rev. C

The Miami Herald
Sat, Aug 15, 1959 · Page 15

Princeton Spanish	Mission—Rev. Ernesto
Peraza	Princeton, Fla.
Red Road Chapel	—Rev. Ernest O. Sikes
David Fairchild Elementary School	
5757 S.W. 45th Street	
*Riverside—Dr. James W. Parrish	

The Miami News
Sat, Jan 28, 1961 · Page 5

Fla-ler Street	— Rev. James Copeland
3501 West Flagler Street	
Chapel-University Baptist	—
Rev. Ernest O. Sikes	
David Fairchild Elementary School	
5757 S.W. 45th St.	
Golden Glades	— Rev. James Copeland

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
MANATEE SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1989

Ernest O. Sikes

I want to extend my appreciation to the cooperative, concerned and committed people of the Manatee Southern Baptist Association. This year has marked some tremendous strides in strengthening the association administratively in policy, procedure and function. The Administrative Committee has truly been a help that has gone far beyond all hoped for benefits. The people who compose this committee have been mature, spiritual and courageous. Their meetings could serve as a model for the rest of our committees and those of our churches as well. As other committees and councils have met in recent months the evidence of unity and singleness of purpose has truly been evident. There has been more openness and expression of a broader range of ideas and approaches which resulted in better final decisions. Give and take, cooperation and understanding has emerged significantly. I am appreciative of the many people who not only accepted positions of leadership and service but performed the work involved. Had it not been for their spirit of helpfulness we could not have coped with the drastic change in available finances. We have made it to the end of this associational year in the black. We now move from an almost zero financial resource or balance into this year with a people who exemplify faith.

Ten years ago I came here led and called of God, approved by the Manatee Southern Baptist Association to be the Director of Missions. It was the second anniversary meeting being held in the First Baptist Church of Manatee. The churches had, prior to my call, committed themselves to give 3% of all undesignated receipts to the association's budget to make it feasible to have a full time Director of Missions. The Florida Baptist Convention also committed themselves to: 1) give \$7,000 a year for ten years to the association as a salary supplement to assist in providing a salary for a full time director, and 2) carry a specified insurance package for the director including life, accident, disability and medical coverage. It had a ten year stipulation stating that upon ten years of service it would be guaranteed for the rest of his life. I reached ten years and the state has now withdrawn its support with the Manatee Southern Baptist Association assuming full responsibility for salary and benefits.

I was very excited about what the association would be able to accomplish for the Lord. They seemed to pull together and be interested in one another. Today, there are only seven of those pastors still serving in those churches, much change has taken place in this decade. I had a vision (attached); sure it was idealistic in a sense but it was attainable in the Lord as we would work together. We did better on the physical achievements perhaps than those of the spirit as our number of baptisms was the 2nd lowest in our entire history. Some original vows have gone unfulfilled, but by His grace He has held us up and blessed us in so many wonderful ways.

Rev. Sikes rebuilding ailing Baptist church

By Joy Murphy

The Ledger

WINTER HAVEN — The Rev. Ernest Sikes says he went to First Baptist Church of Jan Phyl Village without a clear calling from God.

"I prayed, 'Lord, this is where I'm going. If you don't want me there, lead me elsewhere,'" Sikes said. "I have been reassured that this is where he wants me."

Before Sikes, 60, came to the church, it was experiencing a decline in membership and the departure of its pastor, who had been there for 13 years.

"My hardest job right now is these people who had no influence," he said. "They're hurt. They saw things and heard things that almost killed them."

Sikes said the church now is emphasizing Sunday school as its main growth agent, but there also has been a change in attitude.

"If they didn't have the assurance of Christ, these people would be on the road," he said. "They have done more in three months than most churches will do in three years."

Since Sikes came to the church, the church has begun keeping better attendance and financial records and has improved its visitation program.

"I had the experience to help this church. People are joining again," he said. "Now we just need money to operate on. We're hurting financially."

Coming from a non-Christian home

PASTOR PROFILE

NAME: Rev. Ernest Sikes

OCCUPATION: Pastor of First Baptist Church of Jan Phyl Village

AGE: 60

PLACE OF BIRTH: Miami

FAMILY: Wife, Willene; four grown children; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild

INTERESTS: Work, Christian conferences, raceway ministry at Daytona and other raceways; "I used to fish, but preaching is more exciting than catching a snook."

FAVORITE BOOK OF THE BIBLE: John

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE: Philippians 2:5; "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

in the Miami area, Sikes' family wasn't altogether happy about his decision in 1948 to go into the ministry.

"My dad said 'I knew you'd never amount to anything,'" Sikes said. "He was very bitter toward church. I don't know why. I'd never seen him in church until I preached my first sermon."

Sikes said he was "reached" by a very devoted Sunday school teacher.

"I couldn't even quote John 3:16 in those days," he said. "I didn't have the background."

After praying to God for guidance, Sikes entered college. When he had

Haven.

completed his third year, he pastored a church in Melbourne for one year and married his wife, Willene. He then finished his bachelor's degree and earned a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In 1956 Sikes began a 24-year pastorate at Gateway Baptist Church in Coral Gables.

Working with the Southern Baptist Convention, Sikes said he helped churches get established throughout the country. His next work was in Manatee County with the Manatee Southern Baptist Association where he served as Director of Missions.

"I thought I could be of help," he said. "Instead of building one church, I could help 20."


After more than 11 years, Sikes said he learned that some pastors don't want help from outside sources, and he left the ministry.

"I had come from a growing church. This work wasn't fulfilling," he said. "We prayed for two year that God would put us in a work where we could use what He'd given us."

While leading a church-growth campaign in Auburndale, Sikes said he learned that the Jan Phyl church was without a pastor.

As a pastor, Sikes said he believes in strong Bible teachings and applying them to one's daily life.

"I believe very strongly that the Bible is the word of God," Sikes said. First Baptist Church of Jan Phyl Village meets for Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. Worship services are offered at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Wednesday.



Ernest Sikes Obituary

Retired Baptist Minister HARLEM, Ga. - Entered into rest Wednesday, October 21, 2009, Reverend Ernest Oscar Sikes, Jr. 78, husband of Mrs. Willene Fender Sikes. A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, October 24, 2009, at Fort Creek Baptist Church, Dearing, Ga. with the Dr. Phil Bray and Rev. Marvin Pittman officiating. Rev. Sikes was born in Miami, Florida to the late Ernest Sikes, Sr. and Pauline Knox Sikes. He was a Baptist Minister for 49 years and had served as Pastor of Silver Run Baptist Church from 1995-1998. Rev. Sikes was a member of Fort Creek Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by a son Howard Dean Sikes and a sister Dorothy Potvim. Survivors include his wife Willene Sikes; two daughters, Valerie Herriman, Harlem and Gail Voznaik, of Grovetown; one son, John Douglas Sikes, Sheridan, Wyoming; and grandchildren, Sherrell and Kyle Sikes, Donald Sikes, Jonathan and Micah Herriman; great-grandchildren Kayla and Ethan. If so desired, memorials may be made <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/augustachronicle/name/ernest-sikes-obituary?id=28234>

Ernest Oscar Sikes

Birth 22 Nov 1930 Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida, USA

Death 21 Oct 2009 (aged 78) Harlem, Columbia County, Georgia, USA

Burial Fort Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Dearing, McDuffie County, Georgia, USA

Harlem, GA - Entered into rest Wednesday, October 21, 2009, Reverend Ernest Oscar Sikes, Jr. 78, husband of Mrs. Willene Fender Sikes. A Celebration of Life will be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, October 24, 2009, at Fort Creek Baptist Church, Dearing, Ga. with the Dr. Phil Bray and Rev. Marvin Pittman officiating. Rev. Sikes was born in Miami, Florida to the late Ernest Sikes, Sr. and Pauline Knox Sikes. He was a Baptist Minister for 49 years and had served as Pastor of Silver Run Baptist Church from 1995-1998. Rev. Sikes was a member of Fort Creek Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by a son Howard Dean Sikes and a sister Dorothy Potvim. Survivors include his wife Willene Sikes; two daughters, Valerie Herriman, Harlem and Gail Voznaik, of Grovetown; one son, John Douglas Sikes, Sheridan, Wyoming; and grandchildren, Sherrell and Kyle Sikes, Donald Sikes, Jonathan and Micah Herriman; great-grandchildren Kayla and Ethan. If so desired, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 1899 Central Avenue, Augusta, GA 30904 STARLING FUNERAL HOME, HWY 78, HARLEM, GA. Place of Birth: Miami, Florida Place of Death: Gibson, Georgia Visitation: Following the service at the church Saturday Services: Fort Creek Baptist Church Saturday, October 24, 2009 3:00 PM Interment: church cemetery

Family Members

Parents

Ernest Oscar Sikes 1900–1956

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/210280780/ernest_oscar-sikes