

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

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Silva, Abdiel J. was born in Austin, Texas the son of Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Silva. He graduated from Baylor University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Silva served as a missionary for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to the Cuban people in Florida, Georgia and Cuba. While in Florida he served as associate pastor of Clark Memorial Baptist Church, Ybor City. Silva and his wife, Lydia Alfaras Silva had one son.

his family and now he had been converted "when the world looked darkest." P. A. Siegfried discussed "The Layman and His Denomination."

Mission Discussion.

At this morning's session, given over to the discussion of the Baptist Mission causes, the **Rev.** Paul B. Cooper, in discussing foreign missions, emphasized the effect of the unsettled conditions "in Europe and in China" on Baptist missions and said that the "work of missions in foreign countries is more necessary today than at any time in the past."

Abdiel Silva, home board missionary in Ybor City, spoke on the "Home Missions," stressing the need for missionary work "in our own city."

The **Rev.** T. H. York, Port Tampa City, discussed state missions. The **Rev.** M. J. Schultz, Mango, explained the work of the Baptist Cooperative program, after which Mrs. S. S. Corley,

Tampa, read a report on the Women's Temperance Union. The **Rev.** Harry A. Day, home board missionary in West Tampa, gave a resume of the work of the Baptist Goodwill Center.

Others On Program.

Dr. C. B. Williams, formerly professor of Christianity at the Union University of Tennessee, gave the missionary sermon.

Memorial services for the **Rev.** Solon Bates and the **Rev.** J. T. Armond, both of whom died during the past year, will be held this afternoon.

Bill Gaventa, president of the University of Tampa's Baptist Union, will lead the devotional services at the Young People's session tonight. Mrs. T. M. Johns and a chorus of 34 children from the Baptist Children's Home in Arcadia will appear in a program to give members a more thorough understanding of the work being done there.

THE NEWS: LYNCHBURG, VA., SUNDAY MORNING

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— The Rev.
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among his own people, will speak at 11:15 o'clock Sunday morning. He is a graduate of the Oklahoma Baptist University. He will also speak at 8 o'clock Sunday night.

The Rev. Abdiel Silva, missionary of the home mission board to the Cubans, living in Tampa, Fla., will speak at 8:15 o'clock on Monday night. Mr. Silva was born in Austin, Tex., and his parents, who are Cubans, were missionaries among the Mexican people, serving in Texas, Florida and Cuba. After attending Baylor University and Louisville Seminary, Mr. Silva was appointed by the home mission board to work among the Cubans in Tampa.

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Grasty, who is center work in in Western Vir She has a colle to show along v is a native of C

The Rev. J. C. West Africa will with a message Mr. Powell is a Carolina and was as a missionary t that time has evangelistic wor Nigeria.

Mission study taught at 7:30 p. Friday, followed the missionary a The missionar

Assistant Pastor Of Clark Church Weds Cuban Girl

Miss Lydia Alfaras, of Matanzas, Cuba, and the **Rev. Abdiel Silva** were married Thursday night at Clark Memorial Baptist church. The bridegroom's father, the **Rev. J. B. Silva**, performed the ceremony, in Spanish.

Palms, roses, spring flowers and candelabra were used for decorations. Wedding music was given by Mrs. C. A. Waller, piano; Miss Winifred Tumblyn, violin, and Mrs. Mary Louiza Valdez, vocalist.

The bride is the granddaughter of the **Rev. J. L. Greno**, Baptist missionary in Cuba. She is a graduate of Matanzas normal school.

The **Rev. Silva** is a graduate of Baylor university in Texas, and attended Southern Baptist Theological seminary at Louisville. He is assistant pastor of Clark church.

The couple flew to Havana after the ceremony, where they will attend the Cuban Baptist convention. On their return to Tampa they will live at 1909 15th st.

MISSIONARY MEETING

The Woman's Missionary Society of The First Baptist Church will observe a season of prayer and offering for state missions tomorrow morning at 10:30 o'clock. The Rev. T. H. York and The Rev. Alex Pasetti will speak on their work among the Italians of West Tampa. The Rev. Abdiel Silva and Miss Frances Curb will speak on their work among the Latin people of Ybor City.

Miss Vena Agullard, who has been working among her own French people in Louisiana, will begin her series of missionary addresses at the First Baptist church at the evening service, Sunday.

Rev Abdiel Silva of Tampa, who has been in charge of the mission field at Ybor City, Tampa, will be the guest speaker at the Southside Baptist church at the evening hour, Sunday, and rotate to the other churches, bringing his challenging missionary message.

Baptists Plan Night Service In Spanish

A regular worship service for Spanish-speaking people will be held at 7:30 p.m. each Sunday in the Dr. McClain Chapel of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

Conducting the services will be the Rev. Abdie Joel Silva, a missionary in Cuba for more than 14 years.



Rev. Abdiel Silva

He previously worked with the Cubans in Tampa.

Mr. Silva is missionary to the Spanish-speaking people in Georgia, serving under the cooperative direction of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Although he is a native of Austin, Texas, Mr. Silva was reared in Cuba. He holds B.S. and B.A. degrees from Matanzas Institute in Cuba and a B.A. degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He also studied at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Cuba Refugees Get Baptist Haven Here

A Cuban missionary is setting up the first Baptist ministry to Spanish-speaking people in the 120-year history of the denomination in Georgia.

The job undertaken by the **Rev. Abdiel Silva** and his wife presently has a range of more than 3,000 Cubans and Puerto Ricans now living in Georgia with about 2,000 settled in Atlanta. Most of these, the **Rev. Mr. Silva** says, are refugees.

The Silvas, who spent the last 14 years in Cuba as Southern Baptist missionaries, arrived here in September to concentrate their ministry in Atlanta where they live and in Columbus.

Georgia Baptists and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Convention created the ministry to meet many requests of Spanish-speaking people both here and Columbus.

THEY'RE VERY GLAD

"You would be surprised at how glad they were when we came," said the **Rev. Mr. Silva**

has made an interpreter of him too.

The weekly services are held on Tuesday nights in the basement of the Druid Hills Baptist Church. Average attendance is 50. A person who makes a profession of faith is instructed to join one of the city's English-speaking churches but to continue worship with the Spanish as well as the English-speaking congregations.

15 VISITS A WEEK

After a month in the new ministry, the **Rev. Mr. Silva**, often accompanied by his wife, is visiting 10 to 15 homes of Cubans and Puerto Ricans each week.

They invite Christians to the services and with the aid of a Spanish Bible and limited other written materials, evangelize to others.

ministry to meet many requests of Spanish-speaking people both here and Columbus.

THEY'RE VERY GLAD

"You would be surprised at how glad they were when we came," said the Rev. Mr. Silva about many of the Cubans who are attending American churches with no knowledge of the English language.

The Cubans and Puerto Ricans are expected to learn the language, he said, but until they do, he will conduct a weekly church service for them in Spanish and work with them in their homes.

His primary function as a missionary is to evangelize, he said, but the language barrier

Cubans and Puerto Ricans each week.

They invite Christians to the services and with the aid of a Spanish Bible and limited other written materials, evangelize to others.

"We want them to feel that the United States is their own country," the missionary said. "We don't want them to be isolated."

Mrs. Silva added that all they have to work with is a huge city map and several Spanish booklets published by the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Rev. Mr. Silva describes his wife as "my memory and my secretary."

In Columbus on weekends,

In Columbus on weekends, they conduct Sunday school and worship services at Fort Benning and Sunday afternoon services at Baker Village. Their visitation program is carried out there on Saturdays.

IS THRILLED

"I am so thrilled with the work the different churches here are doing for the Cubans," the Rev. Mr. Silva said.

Some of the churches have Sunday school classes in Spanish.

The Rev. Mr. Silva was born in Austin, Tex., but grew up in Cuba. His wife is a native of Cuba. He attended Havana University but returned to the United States where he graduated from Baylor University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Silvas have a teen-age son who left Cuba two years ago. Before they left Cuba two months ago, they were among a handful of remaining Baptist missionaries there.—DALE CURRY.