

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

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Silva, J. B. was a native of Cuba. He graduated from the University of Habana, Cuba. Silva served as a Home Mission Board missionary for the Southern Baptist Convention to the Mexican and Cuban people in Texas, Florida and Cuba. He also served as pastor of Clark Memorial Baptist Church, Ybor City, Florida.

CHURCH WORK IN TAMPA

First Church

This church in point of membership is the largest in the State. The number of members is between 900 and 1,000. The building is ample in seating capacity and can practically all be turned into one auditorium. The services, both morning and evening, are largely attended. This is the eighth year of the service of Rev. C. W. Duke, the present pastor. There have been many additions since he became pastor. He is a native of Virginia. His work here has been a large one in many ways. There is nothing little about the man. His sermons are led with the gospel and he delivers them with powerful effect. He is perhaps at his best in the pulpit though his congenial mood fits him in every way for pastoral duties. He is doing a work for this city possibly second to no man in it. He frequently makes addresses at the city Y. M. C. A. His work is in the best of condition.

Rev. Howard Martin, brother of the Evangelist T. T. Martin, is the assistant pastor at the First church. He is an energetic, earnest and capable worker. He is well-trained in music. He is a valuable assistant at the First church.

The Sunday school at the First church is under the management of Mr. Lee McDonnell who makes an efficient and up-to-date superintendent. The attendance and interest in the school is one of the most important departments of work in the First church.

Palm Avenue

There has been a splendid increase in the membership of this church during the last year—more than 100. In addition to this, the greater part of the work upon the new church building has been completed. Little more remains to be done with exception of interior work. The building when completed will cost about \$37,000, and will be a credit to the City of Tampa. It is located in Tampa Heights and will surpass in beauty any church building in that section of the city. This church has a membership of about 650 and in the number are included many loyal Baptists. Rev. J. E. Skinner has been pastor of this church about one year. He has done a year's work which has been attended with best results. There has been great advance along all lines of church endeavor, and this work is perhaps in better condition than it has ever been before. Much commendation was heard of the work of Brother Skinner. He is every inch an optimist. And how men of his kind are needed! If things continue to advance at Palm Avenue as they have for the past few months, the members of this church will soon be worshipping in a handsome and well equipped new church edifice.

The Sunday school at Palm Avenue numbers over 300. It is, and has been for some years, under the management of Rev. J. S. Hampton. By painstaking care and persist-

ent effort he has brought this Sunday school to its present high standard. His labors have been abundantly rewarded.

The different departments of the B. Y. P. U. after a recent institute held in the church for the purpose of stimulating interest and effort in R. Y. R. U. work, is making good progress. There is good attendance at the meetings and the members really take part. The W. M. U. has done much during the past year in raising money for the new church building. The regular services at the church are being well attended. In many ways this work is making steady progress and the outlook for it is full of promise.

Sixth Avenue

Services are held on the second and fourth Sundays at this church, Rev. Irving Walden, of Plant City, being the pastor. The church is located in the eastern part of the city. It has a membership of about 120. There are some excellent members in this church, among them J. G. Jones, J. A. Smith, A. R. Scraggs, and others. The Sixth Avenue building is a good one and is kept in first rate repair. Brother Walden is a good gospel preacher. He conducts services morning and night. He is doing a good work at this church and for that part of the city in which it is located.

El Bethel

This church has for its pastor Rev. J. F. Russell who resides in the city. There are about seventy-five members and services are held on first and third Sundays.

Concord and West Tampa

The work at these churches is being conducted by Rev. J. H. House. He is giving two Sundays per month to each. There is good interest in the Concord work. The attendance is first rate and the people are taking hold of the work in an earnest manner. Brother House has served longer at the Concord church than any pastor who has preceded him. The West Tampa work is yet chiefly missionary. However, Brother House is pushing it and if he succeeds in getting the active co-operation of Baptists who live in the vicinity, he will make the work a successful one.

Clark Memorial

The church house located in Ybor City and called Clark Memorial is a splendid brick building and is adapted to church and school purposes. Rev. W. B. Silva, a native Cuban, is in charge of this work. A day school is held for Spanish and Cuban children through the week and on Sundays religious services are held. Rev. J. H. House is the present pastor in the work. This work seems to be doing well. Brother Silva can speak well in English. He had experience in mission work in Mexico, before coming to Ybor City. He is having additions to his membership.

The Work of Rev. E. M. C. Dunklin

For six years Brother Dunklin has labored in Tampa as a missionary. His work has extended to every part of the city. Many have been helped by his ministrations. Often at late

night hours he is called to go to the bedside of some sufferer who is in need of spiritual aid. He is usually engaged in the day time in selling books, distributing literature, and making visits. At night he visits the different city missions. There is one of these for nearly every night of the week. He visits the county jail, makes regular trips to the Old People's Home, often conducts services at the City Orphans' Home, the county farm, the Rescue Home, the stockade where convicts are kept, and pays many visits to the city hospitals. Besides this he frequently supplies the city churches, and goes into the country for a meeting. He frequently makes eighty visits a day. Last month he made 810 visits. He has had no small part to do with increasing the membership of the city churches. He has been most useful in bringing the Baptist work of Tampa to its present position.

West Tampa Mission

This work is Italian and Rev. Pascoal Arpaio, a native Italian, is in charge. He is conducting a school in connection with the mission. He is doing a good work.

A valuable addition to the work at the West Tampa Mission is Miss Fannie Taylor, a native of Missouri, who has just come to the city. She has studied in the training school at Louisville, Ky., and is well equipped for the work in Tampa. She will teach in the West Tampa Mission school and do mission work among the Italians.

Besides the West Tampa Mission, other important missions in the city are the Buffalo street, the Garriques, the Graham, and the "Burns" mission. The latter, which is a flourishing one, is kept up largely by Brother C. C. Burns, one of the best members, and a leading and influential deacon of the First church.

Port Tampa City

The work here is under the pastoral care of Rev. J. F. Boras, a native of Arkansas. He is giving half time each to Port Tampa City and Tarpon Springs. He is now entering upon his second year upon this field. He came from a four years' pastorate in New Mexico. He is consecrated and efficient and will no doubt do a good work on his field. The church building at Port Tampa City is a good one and there are some excellent persons in the membership at this place. Mrs. E. F. Johnson is of much value in the work at Port Tampa City. She has charge of the Junior B. Y. P. U., which is doing fine work. She is also of much help in providing music for the church services.

The entire Baptist work of Tampa is moving most auspiciously. It has the distinction of being the largest work in the State by 500, so far as membership is concerned, and day by day it is growing in magnitude, the work is growing apace with the progress of the city and in every way the future promises for it large and important results.

A. B. CANNADY.

Tampa, Fla.

Are you a Christian? Does your wife know it?—John A. Cargile.



The Best Way
TO THE COMMUNION MEETINGS
OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH
OF TAMPA, FLORIDA
ON SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 15, 1913
AT 7:30 P. M.
The service will be held at the
Central Christian Church, 1215
N. 12th St., Tampa, Fla.
Admission Free

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to its customers.
Every transaction is considered
confidential and no idle curiosity in-
to the affairs of its customers is per-
mitted.

THE NEWS: LYNCHBURG, VA., SUNDAY MORNING

lks duled ottsville

e News)
— The Rev. **Grasty**, pastor of the church, has announced that there will be eight services at the church during the second annual festival on October 17 to 19. **Kaneubbe**, an evangelist who is working

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.

Dr. **F. P. Lide**, missionary to

Grasty, who is center work in in Western Virginia. She has a collection to show along with a native of

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

Mission study taught at 7:30 p. m. Friday, followed the missionary

jects.

NEW ITALIAN MISSION OPENED BY DR. PLAINFIELD IN TAMPA.

Tampa, Fla.—Dr. J. F. Plainfield, missionary to the Italians in Tampa, has opened a new mission on his field, known as the Brown Baptist Mission.

Services in Spanish for Cubans and other Spanish-speaking people will be conducted each Friday evening by Rev. J. B. Silva, Home Board missionary to the Cubans in Tampa, and Dr. Plainfield will have charge of Sunday school each Sunday afternoon and preaching service on Sunday evenings.

This new mission increases to three the number of missions where Dr. Plainfield has services regularly, in addition to the church of which he is pastor, North Boulevard Baptist church. The other two missions are Armenia Avenue Italian Mission and the C. C. Burns Missions.

(By Miss Roswell, sie Watson the life of a three-night Clovis, N. I mean he w who loved saved him.

After the an old ma worn, tired ships of a feet and a word.

When I "Friends, it can tell an mean he is the Bible, I to stop and

He then plied that such service children w tians, but that Chris

Ybor City Religious Relics

Unusual was the experience in the Ybor City Baptist Temple when the Odd Fellows Lodge presented the cornerstone and box which had been removed from the former Clark Memorial Church building. Recently the former church structure was sold to the lodge by the Home Mission Board. During the remodeling program, the cornerstone reading Templo Bautista, February 16, 1911, was removed and the tin box was found.

Building Committee Chairman G. (Tom) Maggio of the Odd Fellows presented these historical objects to The Rev. Roland B. Armstrong, pastor of the congregation. Sentiment ran high as members of the group heard read names of parents, grandparents and other acquaintances.

Charred edges of the stationery and Bible told better the story of the fire which destroyed the first frame building of this church than the words "Only articles saved from fire." Pastor J. B. Silva, now retired and living in Miramar, Cuba

Charred edges of the stationery and Bible told better the story of the fire which destroyed the first frame building of this church than the words "Only articles saved from fire." Pastor J. B. Silva, now retired and living in Miramar, Cuba, led this church group in 1911. Enclosed also was a 1911 edition of El Debate, a Spanish newspaper.

After the fire of December 10, 1910, the Clark Memorial brick building was constructed by the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1911. First pastor of the church was A. S. Rodriguez. At the original organization Dr. M. M. McCall, veteran Baptist missionary of Cuba, was guest speaker. G. E. Mabry, prominent Tampa attorney, recorded the organizational minutes. This first meeting was held on June 7, 1908.

During this period the church conducted a day school as well as regular church activities. Pupils' names were found in the box.

Mrs. Adalee Mabry, resident of St. Petersburg, was special visitor at this service Sunday. She had served as teacher of the day school as early as 1902 along with Harry Clark, after whom the church was named. Having served first in Cuba as missionary, she was fitted well for the work she carried on here.

Plans are being made for this marble cornerstone to be displayed in the future construction of the Ybor City Baptist Temple.

Transcript WPA

CLARK MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, 1903--. (First Baptist Mission in Ybor City, 1903-11). 1909 15th Street, Tampa, Hillsborough County.

Constituted 1903. First services in small house on 8th Ave. between 13th and 14th Streets, until October 1903, then in a small rented building until destroyed by fire in 1910. Present gray, rectangular, two-story brick building with eleven rooms erected and dedicated, 1911. Present membership, 227. Active organizations, Sunday School. First settled pastor, Rev. W.H. Clark, 1903-17; education unknown. Present pastor, Rev. J.B. Silva, 1910-16, 1931--, 1909 15th Street, Tampa; University of Habana, Cuba. See "Brief History of the Church", Feb. 1903-11, by church clerk, located in Convention Church Road in church.

CONVENTION CHURCH RECORD, 1923-29, 1935--, 3 vols. Showing minutes of meetings, officers, pastors, membership roll, baptisms and deaths. 1 vol., custody of clerk, Mrs. Providence Celasco, 3606 Devon Street, Tampa.

(TREASURER'S RECORD), January 1939, 1 vol. Showing receipts and disbursements. Custody of treasurer, Albelardo Martinez, 21st Street and Columbus Drive, Tampa.

(SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORD), June 1924-December 1928, January 1937--, 3 vols. Showing officers, teachers, pupils, visitors, collections and disbursements.

(CRADLE ROLL DEPARTMENT RECORDS), June 1938--, 1 card file. Showing names, address, church membership of parents, by whom brought in. Custody of leader, Mrs. Raymond Alfonso, 1503 32nd Ave., Tampa.

Tampa Bay Baptist Mission Society Elects Officers

Mrs. L. E. Womack was elected president of the Tampa Bay Baptist Women's Missionary society for the sixth consecutive year at the annual meeting at Palm Avenue Baptist church.

Mrs. Robert Walden, state president, introduced the guest speaker, Mrs. F. L. O. Ling, secretary of Soo-Seng-Sih W. M. U., Shanghai, China, who made an interesting address on her work. Other missionaries introduced were Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Silva and Miss Aurelia Baez, of the Cuban mission, Tampa, and Mrs. M. S. Blair from Argentina. Special music was presented by Miss Maybelle West and Mrs. Roy DeBusk. More than 300 women, representing seven associations, were present.

The next annual meeting will be held in Dade City.

Miss Alfaras Weds Baptist Minister

In the **Clark Memorial Baptist Church**, Miss Lydia Alfaras, Manzanias Cuba, became the bride of the Rev. Abdiel Silva last Thursday night. The ceremony was performed by the bridegroom's father, the Rev. J. B. Silva, pastor of the **church**, before an altar banked with spring flowers and lighted by three branched candelabra. Mrs. C. A. Waller, pianist, Miss Winifred Tumblin, violinist, and Mrs. Mary Louisa Valdez presented a program of nuptial music.

The bride entered with her uncle, Jose Garcia, who gave her in marriage. She wore the traditional white satin gown with a long veil, and carried an arm bouquet of white carnations. Mrs. Evangelina Garcia, aunt of the bride, was matron of honor. Little Sylvia Leon was flowergirl. Dr. O. J. Afanador served as best man.

Immediately after the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Silva left for Miami where they took a plane for Havana. They will attend the Cuban **Baptist** Convention before returning to their new home at 1909 15th St. in Tampa.

15th St. in Tampa.

The bride is the granddaughter of the Rev. J. L. Greno, a missionary in Cuba. She was graduated from the Normal School in Manzanias. The bridegroom is a graduate of Baylor University in Texas, and attended the Southern **Baptist** Theological Seminary in Louisville. He is assistant pastor of **Clark Memorial Baptist Church**.