

## 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.

Visit our website at [FloridaBaptistHistory.org](http://FloridaBaptistHistory.org)

**Sims, Earle D.** (1872-1941) was born in Miami, Missouri. He attended William Jewel College and graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Sims as a missionary to China for six years during the Boxer war. He served as state evangelist of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Florida Baptist Convention and the California Baptist Convention. Sims served as pastor of Key West Baptist Church, 1909-1910. He preached many revivals and lectured on his experience in China all over the United States. Sims and his wife, Vivia Divers Sims had one son.



## Strenuous Life of Earle D. Sims; Traveled 200,000 Miles in 4 Years

Easton, Nov. 24.—Rev. Earle D. Sims, a returned missionary from China, is in the city, and for the next two weeks will preach twice a day at the Baptist Church. Mr. Sims is a native of Missouri, but his home is in Louisville, Ky.

Rev. Mr. Sims spent four years traveling before going to China, visiting over twenty of the most prominent nations of the world, covering 50,000 miles a year, or 200,000 miles in the four years. Six years of his life were spent 80 miles in the interior of China, being located at Tai Au Fu.

He gives an intensely interesting account of the Boxer war, which occurred while he was there. His wife and baby had a narrow escape from being murdered by the Boxers. He was away from home on a missionary tour, believing that all danger to their city and home were past, when the bloodthirsty Boxers made a raid, breaking into his home, and but for the bravery of the native Christians his wife and child would have been massacred. His coworker, Mr. Brooks, from London, was the first missionary to be killed by the Boxers.

Mr. Sims' wife, by the way, was Miss Vivian Diver, who was raised by Dr. and Mrs. S. H. Ford of St. Louis, the latter being an author of considerable note. Prior to their marriage Miss Diver worked three years among the outcast women of Chicago, and for three years

was special missionary employed by the Third Baptist Church of St. Louis.

In the meantime her sweetheart, Mr. Sims, was laboring among the heathen in far-off China. It was arranged that she should go to meet him, and she made the long journey of 12,000 miles to China and they were married. Their little son, Rochester Ford, now five years of age, was the first foreign child to be born in the city in which they lived, and the event created great interest among the natives. They crowded in to see "the little heathen devil," as they called the child. The boy's Chinese name is Shin Loong King, and Mr. Sims' name was Shin er Lee.

Mr. Sims gives some dark pictures of the condition of the people of China. He tells of the horrible murder of the girl children born into the Chinese home, and of the throwing of all dead bodies under ten years of age into the streets to be devoured by the dogs and other animals. The women, he says, are slaves in the worst sense of the word, and are subject to the most cruel treatment at the hands of their brutal husbands. One of the darkest pictures, however, is the fact that the same vessels carrying missionaries and Bibles to these poor, benighted creatures are also loaded with rum, to degrade and ruin the people. He has been away from China about two years, leaving there during the Boxer war. He says he chased 1,000 Chinamen, even if he did not put 10,000 to flight, for he had them in his rear and he made good time.

**REV. EARLE D. SIMS**

**R**EV. EARLE D. SIMS, who has labored as a missionary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society since 1910, passed away Wednesday, March 12, 1941, in Livingston, Montana, while enroute to his home in Arlington, Virginia. Mrs. Sims was accompanying him, and their son Rochester reached Livingston by plane from Washington, D. C., a few hours after the father's death. Funeral services were conducted in the North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago, on Saturday (March 15). Burial took place on Monday (March 17) in Columbia Gardens Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

At the age of sixteen years Mr. Sims entered the ministry and attended William Jewel College. As a boy preacher he labored in many western states, holding meetings, organizing churches and erecting church buildings. In June 1892, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy and served on board the *Charleston* as a nurse. He has labored on our battleships and traveled to all parts of the world. He was promoted to "admiral's writer," became secretary of Rear Admiral C. C. Carpenter and at the outbreak of the Spanish War became Secretary of Admiral Dewey.

During his four years' service in the Navy he preached every Sunday on ships. He organized the first floating Christian Endeavor Society and established the Christian Endeavor Home of Sailors at Nagasaki, Japan. At Shanghai he purchased his discharge from the U. S. Navy and

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joined our Baptist mission forces in Shantung Province of China, where he labored a number of years until the Boxer War. In China he married Miss Vivia Divers, the foster daughter of Mrs. Sallie Rochester Ford.

He and his family escaped from the perils of the Boxer War and returned to the Southern Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. There followed four years as State Evangelist of the Tennessee Convention, three years with the Florida Convention, four years with the Northern California Convention and three years with the Nebraska Convention.

In 1910, he became "church invigorator" of the Home Mission Society, laboring continually since then in that position in most of the western and middle western states. He has baptized many people, revived, organized and reorganized nearly 200 churches which now have a total membership of over 25,000, with scholars in Sunday schools of over 20,000 and with church property valued at nearly \$3,000,000.

Mr. Sims was building a church in South Bend, Washington, when illness caused him to lay down his tools. He was on his way homeward when the end came, with Mrs. Sims at his bedside.

Thus at the age of sixty-nine the earthly career of one of the most original and creative builders in the Baptist ministry, has closed. His work and the methods he employed to bring to completion the many church building projects, are without parallel. No local conditions that confronted him when he undertook to build or rebuild a Baptist church in a needy community seemed to daunt him.

The members of the Board of Managers of The American Baptist Home Mission Society, in expressing their deepest sympathies to Mrs. Sims and Rochester, her son, desire to record their gratitude to God for the fruitful ministry of Brother Sims, who is held in the affectionate memory of many thousands who today worship in sanctuaries he erected.

(signed) G. PITT BEERS,  
*Executive Secretary*  
The American Baptist  
Home Mission Society.

## Carson-Newman Success

CARSON-NEWMAN closed his debating season in the annual national tournament held at Winthrop College, South Carolina. This year he participated in by the addition to an eleven-man debating team from Tennessee and Western North Carolina.

At the Grand Eastern tournament at Winthrop College last year he represented Carson-Newman College and University of North Carolina. Among the other colleges and universities that participated in the tournament were Dartmouth, Michigan State, Michigan Tech, Oklahoma Baptist, University of Toledo, University of Florida, Duke, and many other colleges in the country.

Carson-Newman won the national championship first in one division and by the Carson-Newman Debate Team consisting of Earl Stallings and Mr. Stallings represented Carson-Newman in the rounds of debate to the national championship debate tournament at Eastern Impromptu Society. Mr. Stallings won the national championship in one Divisional Impromptu and Mr. Stallings won the national championship in Situation O.

Six men and four women participated in the Carson-Newman debating tournament. The winners were Misses Emma K. Louise Elkins, Mabel Haynes, Earl Stallings, Senterfitt, Harry Cook and Mr. Stallings. The members of these teams for the season: Miss Helene Mountain Champions Women: Mr. Stallings

## Dates

- Creation: 1919-1928

## Language of Materials

All materials within this collection are in English.

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## Biographical / Historical

See less

Earle Sims, Church Invigorator

His reports are well organized, detailed, and include 'before' and 'after' photos. The Rev. Earle D. Sims, who served from 1910-1941 as a 'church invigorator' for the American Baptist Home Mission Society, was energized by his work.

Sims did it all; renovating churches and parsonages, holding revivals, working with congregations on a stewardship campaign so they could raise enough money to support a pastor. His wife, Vivia, painted scenes of the Jordan River in baptisteries. And he did it in months, staying usually only three to nine months, before moving on.

Known as "the minister with a tool chest," this former missionary to China and state evangelist traveled from Illinois to California, Iowa to Washington helping communities whose Baptist congregations were small, poor, struggling, or had abandoned its building for years, like in the case of the Dewitt, Iowa church, pictured here, which hadn't been used for 12 years. His industry produced news, with headlines in Portland, OR announcing "From Shingles to Sermons" and "From Broadcloth to Blue Denim".

<https://libraries.mercer.edu/archivesspace/repositories/2/resources/529>

<https://www.ancestry.com/genealogy/records/earle-david-sims-24-23m6g6?msockid=155dd4004a4d68cb1094c7eb4b6169c1>

## **Earle David Sims**

Birth 16 Jun 1872 - Miami, Missouri

Death 12 March 1941 - Livingston, Park County, Montana, United States of America

Mother Not Available

Father Not Available

Born in Miami, Missouri on 16 Jun 1872. Earle David Sims married Vivia Divers Sims and had 1 child. He passed away on 12 March 1941 in Livingston, Park County, Montana, United States of America.

**WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH.**  
 Woodlawn Baptist church, on Woodlawn avenue near Highway avenue. Announcement of services for the week: Sunday, April 5, 1908, Sunday school from 9:45 a. m. to 10:45 a. m.; Mr. D. L. Price superintendent; dedication service at 11 a. m., conducted by the **Rev. Earl D. Sims**; Children's Object sermon at 3 p. m., by **Rev. Sims**.

The evening service at 7:30 will be in charge of Mr. F. w. Cramer. A cordial welcome is extended to all.

**Parker Street Methodist.**  
**Rev. F. L. Glennan**, pastor.  
 The following services will be held in the chapel of the Parker Street Methodist church, corner Parker and Church streets today:  
 Sunday school at 9 o'clock at 3 o'clock; subject of lesson, Jesus the Good Shepherd, John x, 1-18.  
 Preaching at 7:30 by the pastor.  
 A very cordial welcome awaits you. Come out and enjoy an hour with us.

**Riverside Methodist Church.**  
 Riverside Methodist Episcopal Church, South, corner Banana and Roselle streets, E. A. Harrison, pastor.  
 Sabbath school 9:45; preaching by J. A. Hendry, presiding elder, Sunday morning, April 5, 11 o'clock. Junior League, 3 p. m. Senior League 7 p. m. Breaching by pastor, 7:30 p. m. Monday, 8 p. m., stewards' meeting. Tuesday, 3 p. m., W. H. M. Society. Wednesday, 7:30 p. m., prayer meeting and Bible class. Thursday, Senior League business meeting, 8 p. m. Friday, 8 p. m., choir practice.

The Day 8 a. m. Morrison Evening Church nue, o extend  
 The Watch meets in the 18 East All t  
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At the close of the evening service the ordinance of baptism will be administered. The revival services will continue till Tuesday evening of next week.  
 An elaborate program will be prepared for the dedication Sunday morning. All are cordially invited to attend all these services.

**DEDICATION PROGRAM.**  
 Song No. 215, by choir, "Will There Be Any Stars In My Crown?"  
 Scripture reading, by **Rev. Earl D. Sims**.  
 Song No. 175, "Entire Consecration."  
 Prayer, by Rev. G. H. Townsend.  
 Solo by Mrs. Reed, "Will You Give Up the World?"  
 Offertory duet, by Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Reed, "Twas on the Cross."  
 Dedication sermon by **Rev. Earl D. Sims**.  
 Song by the choir, No. 188, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."  
 Benediction by **Rev. John A. Sanders**.

The Weekly Press  
Thu, Oct 15, 1908 -Page 1

and hear it.

**Rev. Earl D. Sims Coming.**

Pastor Shults, of the Baptist Church, informs us that he has secured **Rev. Sims** for a series of lectures and evangelistic services, to be held late in November, at the Baptist Church, or else in a tent.

**Rev. Sims** is in the employ of the Baptist State Board, as State evangelist, and is a very successful evangelist. He has held some great meetings in the State. He is a former missionary to China and delivers some very instructive and entertaining lectures. Definite date of his coming will be made later.

## REV. EARL D. SIMS'

# WORK AT LAKE BUTLER

### Converts Souls and Raises Money for Parsonage and Other Purposes in That Town.

On last evening a most successful revival came to a close at Lake Butler. It was the most successful revival held in that little town in many a year. For fifteen days the Rev. Earl D. Sims, Florida Baptist State evangelist, held three services a day, assisting Pastor H. C. Peelman. Large crowds attended the services, and deep spiritual interest was awakened in the town. The following thirty-four people united with the Baptist Church during the meeting: Mr. N. Priester, Mrs. A. L. Rowe, Miss Myrtle Rowe, Mrs. Lee Dugger, Mrs. Irene Stewart, Olive Thornton, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Overstreet, Mr. Homer Kite, Mrs. Martha Kite, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dubose, Miss Maggie Oglesby, Mr. Carl Hilliard, Colonel Joe Williams, Mrs. Joe Williams, Mr. Eustis Marshburne, Mr. E. E. Petty, Mr. Eura Johns, Mr. and Mrs. James Rivers, Sara Rivers, Thelma Rivers, Millie Owensby, Miss Alice Dubose,

Mr. Shelle Maines, Mrs. Coy Jenkins, Mr. Will Dubose, Mr. Phillip Markey, Inez Markey, Mr. Davis Kite, Miss Verner Newsome, Miss Julia Newsome and Mr. A. L. Cruse.

At the close of the meeting the church decided to build a parsonage, and in the last two days Mr. Sims has raised \$1,062 for that purpose, and last night the church appointed a building committee, consisting of H. C. Peelman (chairman), Dr. J. E. Maines and Dr. J. P. Tomlinson, Mr. Charles Rivers and Mr. Henry Fowler, and instructed them to proceed to erect at once a \$1,500 home for the preacher. Mr. Sims also received over \$100 for the State mission work in Florida. In all, \$1,223.57 was contributed during the meeting.

Lake Butler is a beautiful and enterprising little town, being only a short distance from Jacksonville. A fine school building, several store buildings and a number of homes are now being built in the town.

# BUILDING BOOM IS ON AT KEY WEST

## MARTINEZ-HAVANA CIGAR FAC- TORY NOW BEING REBUILT

Second Division Torpedo Flotilla Ex-  
pected—Successful Pastorate of  
**Rev. Earl D. Sims**

KEY WEST, Nov. 19.—(Special.)—  
The Martinez-Havana Company were  
one of the cigar firms whose factory  
building was entirely destroyed in the  
hurricane on October 11. This firm  
is now having constructed a handsome  
two-story and basement concrete  
structure, 50x150 feet, with an ell  
which will be used for offices and un-  
der it will be built a fire-proof vault.  
The roof will be flat with a coping and  
will be covered with tin.

An important feature is the con-  
struction of the upper story and the  
roof. Heavy reinforced steel pilasters  
will be placed on the sides of the  
building and extra heavy tie beams  
will be run transversely every eight-  
teen feet. These in turn will be braced  
with heavy timber. This scheme, it is  
claimed by the contractors, will pre-  
sent the maximum of resistance to the  
wind.

Ferguson & Ward, who are doing  
the work, have now completed 12,000  
of the 27,000 concrete blocks that  
are required for the building and are  
making the remainder at the rate of  
1,000 every four days.

A reinforced concrete cistern which  
will hold 100,000 gallons of water will  
be erected, the foundations of which  
will be begun in a few days.

This factory building will be one of  
the most substantial and convenient  
in the city. The firm is now occupy-  
ing temporary quarters in the Crusoe  
building on Simonton street.

The Pohalski building, a four-story  
wooden structure, which was badly  
damaged in the hurricane, has been  
condemned by the city authorities and  
is being torn down. This structure,  
the tallest in the city, was occupied  
by two factories, each of which have  
secured temporary quarters in other  
parts of the city.

The Sawyer building, a three-story  
frame structure, is another one of the  
larger buildings that was so badly  
damaged that it became necessary to  
have it torn down. This building will  
be immediately rebuilt.

### Contractors Busy

Every contractor in the city is busy  
and each report prospects very bright

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be immediately rebuilt.

### Contractors Busy

Every contractor in the city is busy  
and each report prospects very bright  
for a building boom that will last for  
some time. It is now definitely known  
that more than a quarter of a million  
dollars worth of new buildings will be  
begun within the next few months in  
addition to the usual amount of re-  
pairs, etc.

The young people of Eaton Street  
Baptist church will render a Chinese  
Musical next Wednesday evening;  
about forty people including men, la-  
dies and children will appear on the  
stage dressed in Chinese costumes and  
there will be a Chinese Human Organ  
selection and Chinese solos, duets and  
choruses. Mr. and Mrs. Earle D.  
**Sims**, having spent a number of years  
in China as missionaries, are taking  
great care in drilling and dressing all  
who take part so it will be a fine illus-  
tration of Chinese life and mission  
work. There will also be solos render-  
ed in Spanish and English and an or-  
chestra will assist in the music.

**Rev. Sims** accepted the pastorate of  
the Eaton Street Baptist church last  
May, coming from Tampa, at which  
point he had, as state evangelist of  
the Baptist Mission Board, conducted  
a number of revival meetings. He has  
been remarkably successful in his  
work in this city, the membership of  
the church having increased more than  
200 per cent, since his arrival.

### Flotilla Expected

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C. W. POST, BATTLE CREEK, MICH.

# MISSIONARY FROM CHINA WILL HOLD EVANGELISTIC MEETING

**Rev. Earl D. Sims** Will Conduct a Revival at Main Street Baptist Church.

The **Rev. Earle D. Sims** returned missionary from China and general missionary evangelist of the Florida Baptist State Convention, will arrive in Jacksonville the latter part of this week and will hold evangelistic services with the Main Street Baptist Church, beginning next Sunday.

The **Rev. Mr. Sims** besides a successful missionary worker, is a preacher of great spiritual force and power and a successful evangelist. He has done a great work in a number of cities throughout the State since his connection with the State board, and as a result of his meetings hundreds have been led to an acceptance of Christ.

The meetings will be held in a tent which will be located on the church lot at the northwest corner of Eighth and Main streets. This tent is the property of the State convention and will be used in the work throughout the State. It will be well lighted and heated and comfortable seats provided.

The opening service will be held on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock at which time the tent will be dedicated as the Florida Baptist Convention gospel tent with a sermon by Evangelist **Sims** on "The Promises of God." In the afternoon at 3 o'clock a service for children will be held. This is called a children's object sermon, subject "Dishes," at 7

p. m. Mr. **Sims** will deliver his lecture "My Trip Around the World," taking his hearers to twenty different foreign nations where he has traveled and describe people, customs, etc.

Monday at 3 p. m. he will lecture on "My Travels Through Japan, Corea, Manchuria, Siberia and the Japanese-Russian War."

At 7 p. m. the subject of his lecture will be "My Experience as Six Years a Baptist Missionary 900 Miles in the Interior of China." At this service Mr. **Sims** will appear dressed in Chinese costume, sing and talk in Chinese language, exhibit a number of goods and curiosities he brought with him from China, describe Chinese history, travels, customs and the mission work, and tell of the Boxer war and the massacre of missionaries.

Tuesday he will lecture at 3 p. m. on "Women and Girls of China and Woman's Missionary Work." A sad story of lives and homes of Chinese women. At 7 p. m. the subject will be "The Life of Confucius and My Visit to His Home and Tomb."

The lectures are free and the public is cordially invited to attend. Following the lectures evangelistic services will be held daily at 3 and 7 p. m. to which all are invited. The tent can be reached by taking any of the Main street cars.

*Simply going to see Cal' next winter. Said there was a woman all waiting for it & she*

*One who also Baptized one*

*MS 24*

## Revival Services

at Pavilion Park, Pacific Grove  
Lighthouse Ave. and 15th St.

By  
**Rev. Earle D. Sims**  
Returned Missionary from China and  
Evangelist of California Baptist Convention

Under the Auspices of the Emanuel Baptist Church

Services every evening at 7:30  
o'clock, and Sunday at 11 a. m., 3  
and 7:30 p. m.

Prof. Charles Coulters of Chicago has  
organized a large choir and leads the  
music. His sweet solos melt the  
hearts of people

You are cordially invited

Come! Come! Come!

*We need some fine letters from him.*

The Sunday Oregonian · Sun, Dec 11, 1932 · Page 42 · (Portland, Oregon)

< > 2 of 177 matches

The Sunday Oregonian  
Sun, Dec 11, 1932 · Page 42

## Rev. Earle Sims Will Assume His New Post Today

Upon invitation of Calvary Baptist church, East Forty-second street and Forty-fifth avenue, **Rev. Earle D. Sims** church invigorator for the American Baptist Home Mission society, will begin his ministry with the church today.



**Rev. Earle Sims.**

**Rev. Mr. Sims** spent ten years as a missionary in China and upon returning to America has been a missionary affiliated with the Northern Baptist convention. He will make his home near the church, at 1236 Holgate street.

**Rev. Mr. Sims** will preach at Calvary church both this morning and tonight. He has just closed his work with the First Baptist church of Lebanon after remaining there from September 1 of this year.

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7:30 P. M., "The Three Kinds of De  
Physical, Spiritual and Eternal."

Arieta church, Sixty-fourth street  
Forty-eighth avenue Southeast, Dr. C.  
nar Emanuel: 11 A. M., "The Christ  
Faith Waited For"; 7:30 P. M., "The  
We Need."

First German church, Fourth and  
streets, Dr. J. Kratt: 11 A. M., "Wh  
Suffering?" **Rev. G. Neumann**; 7:45 P  
Gideon gospel quartet

Second German church, Rodney av  
and Morris street: 11 A. M., **Rev. O.  
mann** (German), "John the Forerunn  
Christ"; 8 P. M., **Rev. A. E. Davis**, "8  
the Invisible."

Swedish temple, East Seventh and Cle  
mas streets, **Rev. Fredrik Linden**: 11 A  
(Swedish), "The Wonderful Love";  
P. M., "Precious Faith."

Third church, Vancouver avenue and I  
street, **Rev. George H. Marrs**: 11 A.  
"The Coming of the Sinless Christ";

### NOTICES FOR CHURCH PAG REQUESTED EARLY.

Notices for the Sunday church  
page must reach the desk of th  
church editor not later than  
o'clock the preceding Thursda  
afternoon. They are desirable a  
any time earlier in the week.  
The regular church notice shoul  
be submitted in calendar form  
typewritten. No carbon copie  
are accepted. The Oregonian wi  
welcome all news of church ac  
tivities.



## FOURTH BAPTIST CHURCH ORGANIZED

GOOD RESULT OF A REVIVAL AT  
MILLDALE.

Starts Off With Fifty-Seven Members.  
the Revival Meeting Will Con-  
tinue Next Week.

The Fourth Baptist church of Jacksonville is the name of a new church that has been organized at Milldale, the settlement just beyond Phoenix park, in which is located Cummer's mill.

The following account of the organization of the church was sent to the Times-Union yesterday for publication and will be read with interest by all who take pride in the growth of the city, for while Milldale is not inside the city limits of Jacksonville, it is so close by that it is looked upon as a part of the city:

Under the auspices of Florida Baptist State Mission Board, about two weeks ago **Rev. Earle D. Sims** commenced a meeting in Milldale in his gospel tent, located on the lot opposite Cummer's mill. The meeting has been meeting with remarkable success, and Thursday night resulted in the organization of the Fourth Baptist church of Jacksonville. A committee from among local Baptists, consisting of Brethren Charles P. Stradley, W. A. Brothers and W. G. Wright, invited pastors, deacons and preachers of First church, Main street, and Woodlawn church, to form a council to consider the work.

The tent was packed full Thursday

The tent was packed full Thursday night, many people coming from all parts of Jacksonville. **Rev. Earle D. Sims** preached a sermon from Col. iii:11—"Christ Is All and In All."

At the close of the sermon the Baptists who proposed to organize the church were invited to come to the front, and the following thirty-two Baptists presented themselves to the council to be organized: Mrs. Jennie Scott, Miss Bessie Scott, Mr. Charles P. Stradley, Mrs. Nance L. Stradley, Miss Mary C. Stradley, Mr. Edawrd M. Wood, Mr. Francis H. Wood, Mr. W. G. Wright, Mrs. W. G. Wright, Mrs. Jennie L. Phillips, Mrs. C. E. Housend, Miss Florence Moore, Mrs. Sallie Moore, Mrs. Hattie Lee, Mrs. R. C. Harden, Mrs. Goldie M. Pate, Mr. J. M. Grondin, Mrs. S. E. McIntosh, Mrs. J. B. Bailey, Mrs. M. E. Acosta, Mrs. Caroline Hodges, Mrs. J. R. Goodwin, Miss Kate Goodwin, Mrs. Lara Argile, Mrs. Clarence Jackson, Mr. Clarence Jackson, Mr. W. A. Brothers, Mr. W. G. Rivers, Mr. John Lee, Mr. Horace G. Lee and Mr. J. B. Wiley.

A council was then called of all pastors, preachers and deacons present for the purpose of organizing the church, and the council was as follows: Moderator, **Rev. J. S. Geiger** of First church; clerk, **Rev. G. H. Townsend**; **Rev. John A. Sanders** and Deacon T. J. Touchtone of Woodlawn church; **Rev. W. L. Mahon**, **Rev. P. Q. Queen** and Deacons Brinson, McGowan, James R. Boyd, John P. Rice, of Main Street church, and **Rev. Earle D. Sims** of Orlando church.

Brother **Sims** then presented church to the council. Letters read and all members were accepted. Articles of faith and church covenant read and adopted and organizing prayer offered by **Rev. W. L. Mahon**.

Fifteen for Baptism.

to denominational people of today. In April, 1847, Mr. Doolittle returned to his northern home, when Mr. J. H. Breaker became pastor, and preached at the court house, and in the Methodist chapel.

During Mr. Breaker's pastorate the first meeting house was contracted for; the price being six hundred dollars. This house was opened for worship January 2, 1849.

From 1852 to 1890 the records of the church are lost. The church however, was not prosperous, the constant change of pastors preventing any progress.

During the Civil War the white Baptists drifted into other churches, and the church building was taken possession of by the negro Baptists, who held services there until the fall of 1879, when Rev. William F. Wood, who had been a chaplain in the Union Army, came to Key West and revived interest in the Baptist church. He continued as pastor until early in 1900, when he went to Fernandina, where he died. During his pastorate in Key West he served as a missionary in Cienfuegos, Cuba, for about two years. He was the first evangelical missionary to that island.

In 1866 the church building was destroyed by fire, and the present Baptist church was shortly afterwards erected, largely through the generosity of Mr. John White, who was for more than forty years a member of the congregation. A handsome memorial window to him now adorns the front of the edifice.

The names of the succeeding pastors are Reverends H. M. King, W. W. Bostwick, J. L. D. Hillyer, R. F. Hart, W. H. House, T. J. Porter, James L. Rogers, H. H. Sturgis, J. W. Tucker, M. A. Clonts, who served twice as pastor, W. A. Norwood who served a few months in the interim, and Earl D. Sims. Rev. C. E. W. Dobbs, the present pastor came here in September, 1910.

During Mr. White's life, and the pastorate of Mr. Wood the church thrived to a remarkable degree, and became one of the foremost evangelical influences in the city. After Mr. White's death the congregation not being wealthy, funds for the support of the church were hard to raise, and it was difficult to secure and keep the services of a pastor, so the congregation gradually dwindled away.

During the pastorate of Rev. M. A. Clonts it regained its old time membership. Mr. Clonts first came to Key West in August, 1901, and stayed until October, 1902. Air. Norwood succeeded him and served nearly a year. The church was again left pastorless from August, 1903, until Mr. Clonts returned in April, 1904. It was then that the church started on its present era of prosperity. During his pastorate the old First Baptist Church was formally dissolved, and the Eaton Street Baptist Church organized on March 23, 1905. On March 3, 1901, the old church unanimously voted to transfer the property to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, but nothing was done towards the transfer until Mr. Clonts' second pastorate, when it was finally consummated. The church was then repaired and improved by the addition of the new front, with its attractive columns, and a pastorium was erected. Mr. Clonts ended his pastorate here September 30, 1908, and had a church for a short time in Jacksonville. He has since been engaged in life insurance, and has prospered.

Rev. Earl D. Sims was pastor from June, 1909, until July 31, 1910.

The church under the pastorate of Rev. C. E. W. Dobbs, has grown in membership and grace, and is now one of the strong religious influences on the island.

The Baptist pastors of Key West have had the hardest tasks of any of our ministers, as each one has found the small congregation badly scattered, and have had to "Watch the things they gave their. lives to, broken, and stoop and build them up with worn-out tools."

by Rev. W. L. Mahon.

### Fifteen for Baptism.

The new church then invited Rev. Earle D. Sims to act as pastor during the meeting, and the church doors were opened and the new church received the following fifteen people for baptism: Mr. J. C. Hardee, Mrs. Grace Hardee, Miss Nettie Hatcher, Miss Rena Lee, Mr. Charles T. Wilson, Mr. Walter Phillips, Mrs. Walter Phillips, Mrs. Walter Brothers, Mr. Benjamin Bunn, Mr. Thomas Sing, Mr. A. E. Calkins, Mrs. A. E. Calkins, Mr. J. B. Bailey, Mr. John T. Clark and Mr. William E. Simmons.

Thus the new church starts out with forty-seven members, and many others will unite before the meeting closes. These members are among the very best and most influential resident people of Milldale.

During the service Mr. S. E. Still sang three sweet solos. Every member of council spoke words of greeting and encouragement, and Rev. A. J. Quattlebaum, a minister of the Methodist church, spoke words of greeting for the Methodist denomination. A collection for missions was taken, amounting to \$44.29. The hand of fellowship was then given to the new church by the council, Baptists and all Christians of all denominations present, and the service was closed by prayer by Rev. A. J. Quattlebaum.

Rev. Earle D. Sims announced the revival to continue through another week.

### Services for Sunday.

The programme for Sunday, April 26, will be as follows: At 9:30 a. m., union Sunday school; 11:00 a. m., preaching—subject, A Church In Prayer.

The ordinance of baptism will be administered at 4:00 p. m. to a great body of candidates in Trout creek, in the yard of the home of Mr. A. S. Stoddard, who is located at the bend of Shell road, as it reaches the river, just beyond Milldale, between Milldale and Panama Park.

Sunday night Mr. Sims will preach a sermon in the tent on Temperance, the service to be held under the auspices of the

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Milldale W. C. T. U. The revival meeting will continue through another week, preaching every evening by Mr. Sims in tent at 7:30 p. m. Mr. S. E. Still, a sweet singer, leads the music and sings solos at each service. There is most excellent singing in the meetings. The public is cordially invited and urged to attend all these services.

# REV. SIMS CLOSES HIS LABORS HERE

HAS BEEN A GREAT POWER FOR  
GOOD IN REVIVALS

Preached Farewell Sermon at Palm  
Avenue Church Last Night—To  
Take Up Work in Key West

A large audience of Tampa Heights people and friends from all over the city met **Rev. Earle D. Sims** at Palm Avenue Baptist church last evening and heard his last sermon in Tampa. This service marked the end of one of the most remarkable and successful evangelistic campaigns ever conducted by one man in a city. Mr. **Sims** has conducted one continued revival in this city for six solid months, preaching every night himself and the meetings have accomplished a world of good and has greatly helped the city. Everybody in Tampa has heard him and many people have been greatly helped. In the six months Mr. **Sims** has conducted eight successive revival meetings encircling the entire city. In the series of meetings he has conducted two hundred and fifty-four services, visited over one thousand homes and organized one new church, built two houses of worship, had three hundred and twenty-three additions to the Baptist churches and raised over five thousand dollars for religious work.

## Commencement of Campaign

This campaign commenced at First Baptist church, where Mr. **Sims** conducted a five days missionary institute. At this institute Mr. **Sims** lectured twice a day on his foreign travels. The church was packed full at every service and people from all over the city at once became interested in Mr. **Sims**. Over one hundred dollars was here given him for his lectures, which amount was turned over to state missions.

At Sixth Avenue

eight meetings in our city with our churches and missions and the Lord has abundantly blessed his labors, be it  
"Resolved, first, that we express our pleasure in having had him in our midst.

"Second, Our appreciation for the great blessings brought to our churches and missions and our city through his labors.

"Third, That we express our love for our confidence in him and pray God's blessings on him.

"Fourth, That we express our sympathy and prayers for him in his new field of labor at Key West, Fla.

"Fifth, We express our thanks to the Eaton Street Baptist church of Key West in allowing Brother **Sims** to remain with us to complete his campaign.

"A. S. PETTIE,

"Moderator.

"E. M. C. DUNKLIN,

"Secretary."

In the campaign Mr. **Sims** has had the loyal and hearty co-operation of every Baptist preacher of Tampa and every evening several ministers have been in his services assisting in the work.

## Goes to Key West

Mr. **Sims** now lays down his work as Florida Baptist state evangelist. This long hard strenuous campaign has greatly told on his physical condition and he has to stop for rest. During the two years Mr. **Sims** has been Florida state evangelist he has preached in thirty-eight places in Florida, traveled over eight thousand miles, preached over one thousand times, made over five thousand visits in homes, organized four new churches, built four new houses of worships, had over one thousand additions to the Baptist churches, organized five new Sunday schools, seven Ladies' Missionary societies, five children's bands and five B. Y. P. Unions and raised over fifteen thousand dollars for denominational work.

About two months ago the Eaton Street Baptist church of Key West extended to Mr. **Sims** a call to become their pastor and the call was accepted and tonight he leaves Tampa on the steamer to immediately take up this work. Key West is the third largest and most important city of Florida

and tonight he leaves Tampa on the steamer to immediately take up this work. Key West is the third largest and most important city of Florida and the church to which Mr. Sims goes is one of the most important churches in the state. Mr. Sims has purchased the Florida Baptist state convention gospel tent himself and takes it with him.

A reception by the Baptists of Tampa will be given Mr. Sims this evening at C. C. Burns' Mission and Tampa people are grateful for his work in the city and now wish him great success at Key West. Mr. Sims is now inviting all his friends to visit him at Key West.

**WILL TELL OF VISIT  
TO TOMB OF CONFUCIUS.**

**Rev. Earle D. Sims Promises Inter-  
esting Lecture on Oriental His-  
tory and Religion.**

The subject of the lecture tonight at the tent on Park and Morgan streets, by **Rev. Earle D. Sims**, will be The Life of Confucius and My Visit to His Home and Tomb. In this lecture Mr. Sims will tell of Oriental history, religion, civil government and educational system as they revolve around the life and teachings of Confucius. Mr. Sims has visited this ancient home, which was built 2,500 years ago, and he will describe to his audience every detail of the home and will translate some of the writings of the sage.

Then Mr. Sims will take his hearers to the tomb of Confucius, and standing on this great man's tomb, close his lectures with some reflections on the Oriental situation.

Last night a large crowd attended at the tent, and though it was a chilly night, yet the tent was heated comfortably.

The lecture tonight will be at 7:30 p. m. This is Mr. Sims' greatest lecture, which is in demand by scholars, and which has been delivered at many of the greatest colleges and universities of the country.

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### Baptist Church Notes

Revival meetings were commenced at the first Baptist Church on last Sunday conducted by Evangelist **Earle D. Sims** and pastor C. A. Irvin and the meetings have all the appearances of being a genuine Revival of Religion in Farnam.

**Rev. Earle D. Sims** has been a minister of over twenty five years of experience and is known all around the world. A native of Missouri, student of William Jewell College, and also of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary of Louisville, Kentucky, and after spending four years traveling from nation to nation abroad, he spent six years in the interior of China as a missionary up till the Boxer War.

The meetings have been attended with interest by many people, and will continue with the following program:-