

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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Hudson, John Norton (1902-) was born in Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated from Moody Bible Institute, Chicago. Hudson served as pastor of Concord Baptist Church, Tampa, Second Baptist Church, Sarasota and Bay Haven Baptist Church, Sarasota, 1936-1940. In 1940, Hudson resigned from Bay Haven Baptist Church to serve as chaplain in the US Army. Hudson and his wife Helen Mary Finlayson Hudson had three children.



MEET OUR PASTORS

(biographical Sketches of Pastors
of Bay Haven Church)

REV. ADOLPH A. AUBERT — Born in Ger-a-mer, Alsace-Lorraine, France, February 27, 1880. He came to this country at age eleven and attended Massachusetts schools. Raised a Roman Catholic, he was converted to the Baptist faith at age 23. Married Mable Florence Fuller on December 25, 1906. Both attended Gordon College, Boston, where they met. He also attended Crozier Theological Seminary, Chester, Pennsylvania. He held pastorates in Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, and New Hampshire. For two years he was assistant pastor of First Baptist Church, Manatee. The Auberts had one daughter, Marian. Rev. Aubert died February 2, 1961. He served as pastor from November 19, 1926, until May 1, 1928.

REV. JOSEPH NELSON POTTER — Born in Moodus, Connecticut, January 12, 1853. He was a sailor in his youth but after his conversion he studied constantly (mostly self-educated) for his ministry. Married Margaret Elizabeth Campbell. He served churches in Illinois and Wisconsin. Moved to Sarasota from Viroqua, Wisconsin. The Potters had three children: James W., Samuel C., and Ruth R. Rev. Potter died February 3, 1942, his wife on July 14, 1942; both are buried in Rosemary Cemetery, Sarasota. Ruth Ridsen Potter was the wife of Arthur Brye of Sarasota. Rev. Potter served as pastor from 1928 until 1933.

REV. JAMES E. TRICE — Rev. Trice and his wife came to the Florida Baptist Children's Home in Arcadia, Florida, in April of 1911. For 21 years he was Superintendent, she was matron of the home. They had experience in orphanage work in Louisiana before coming to Florida. On leaving Arcadia in 1932, Rev. and Mrs. Trice came to Sarasota. He did evangelistic work and supply preaching. While pastor of Bay Haven Church, Rev. Trice was holding meetings in Frostproof, Florida, when he died suddenly on August 2, 1935. Supt. T.M. Johns brought the older children of the Home over for the funeral. He was pastor from 1933 until 1935.

REV. JOSEPH B. POWERS — Before coming to Bay Haven, Rev. Powers was pastor of Pear Ridge Baptist Church of Port Arthur, Texas, for 7½ years. He and his wife, Bessie, moved to Sarasota in 1935, leaving their only daughter (married) in Port Arthur. When they left Sarasota the Powers moved to South Carolina. Pastor of Church from September 8, 1935, until November 11, 1936.

REV. JOHN NORTON HUDSON — Born in Columbia, South Carolina, November 26, 1902. Attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where he met Helen Mary Finlayson, also a student at Moody. Both graduated from the Institute. They were married September 24, 1927, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He was pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Tampa, Florida, before he came here. In addition to his work at the Moody Bible Institute, he had a year of study at the University of Pittsburgh and a year at Harvard. The latter part of 1941, he entered the military as a Chaplain. The Hudsons had three sons: John Grant, Robert Lee, and James Norton. He served as pastor from November 29, 1936, until October 9, 1940.

REV. HENRY S. INABNIT — Born May 2, 1904, in Tampa, Florida. He accepted Christ at an early age. Upon completing 7th grade he devoted all his time to work and home after his father's death in 1916. He attended DeLand Baptist Assembly when 16 and there answered the call to preach. Being licensed to preach he did street preaching at every opportunity but became discouraged at age 18 and turned to other pursuits. When 21, he married Mary Stuart. In 1937 the Lord again laid His hand on him and his first pastorate was at Six-Mile Creek near Tampa. In 1938 he went to Okeechobee Baptist Church and then came to Bay Haven January 13, 1941. He moved to Prichard, Alabama, where he was pastor of First Baptist Church. The Inabnits were parents of 4 children: Mary Jane, Betty Jean, Henry S., Jr., and Doris Bea. Rev. Inabnit died February 2, 1954. He was pastor of Bay Haven from December 8, 1941, through April 5, 1944.

REV. LAWRENCE ELLIS HUTTO — Born in Savannah, Georgia, September 14, 1914. He made his profession of faith at the tender age of 8 years. After graduating from high school he attended Richards Business College in Savannah. On August 3, 1932, he was married to Nola Mae Griner. They moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where he was ordained to the ministry on July 31, 1943, just before leaving Moody Bible Institute. The Huttos had one daughter, Nola Irene, who died after having brain surgery. Rev. Hutto died on January 22, 1954. He was pastor of Bay Haven from June 26, 1944, until June 1, 1948, when he left to go and pastor Double Pond Church in Barnwell, South Carolina.

REV. CARL WILSON GOSNELL — Born October 1, 1910, in the Piedmont section of South Carolina. On July 30, 1914, he accepted Christ and felt sometime later that God was calling him to preach but did not answer that call until he was 21. He attended Carson-Newman College in Tennessee where he met his wife, Maude Town-

FIFTH PASTOR -- 1937 - 1941



JOHN NORTON HUDSON — Born in Columbia, South Carolina, November 26, 1902. Attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where he met Helen Mary Finlayson, also a student at Moody. Both graduated from the Institute. They were married September 24, 1927, in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He was pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Tampa, Florida, before he came here. In addition to his work at the Moody Bible Institute, he had a year of study at the University of Pittsburgh and a year at Harvard. The latter part of 1941, he entered the military as a Chaplain. The Hudsons had three sons: John Grant, Robert Lee, and James Norton. He served as pastor from November 29, 1936, until October 9, 1940.

SIXTH PASTOR -- 1941 - 1944



REV. HENRY S. INABNIT — Born May 2, 1904, in Tampa, Florida. He accepted Christ at an early age. Upon completing 7th grade he devoted all his time to work and home after his father's death in 1916. He attended DeLand Baptist Assembly when 16 and there answered the call to preach. Being licensed to preach he did street preaching at every opportunity but became discouraged at age 18 and turned to other pursuits. When 21, he married Mary Stuart. In 1937 the Lord again laid His hand on him and his first pastorate was at Six-Mile Creek near Tampa. In 1938 he went to Okeechobee Baptist Church and then came to Bay Haven January 13, 1941. He moved to Prichard, Alabama, where he was pastor of First Baptist Church. The Inabnits were parents of 4 children: Mary Jane, Betty Jean, Henry S., Jr., and Doris Bea. Rev. Inabnit died February 2, 1954. He was pastor of Bay Haven from December 8, 1941, through April 5, 1944.

TOWNSENDITES HEAR REV. JOHN N. HUDSON

The **Rev. John N. Hudson**, pastor of the Second Baptist church, addressed the Sarasota Townsend club on "The Wisdom of the Townsend Movement" last night. He gave what was described as an interesting and forceful talk.

Others were given by the **Rev. J. E. Collins** of Oneco and the **Rev. J. P. Currin** before Treasurer J. M. Clark collected merchants' cooperative cards and announced that the club treasury was the richer by \$11.60. The amount represents the total voluntary tax collected on what was spent with Sarasota merchants by Townsend sympathizers.

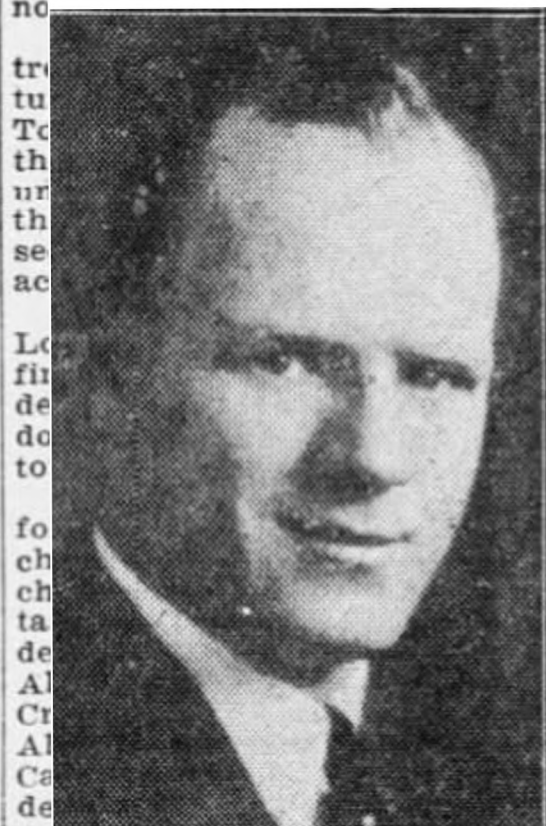
Concord, 2222 Corrine street, the **Rev. John N. Hudson**, pastor; morning, the **Rev. J. H. Maple** will speak; night, "The Looks of Jesus."

Elected



REV. JOHN N. HUDSON.

Baptist Ministers Association elected **Rev. John N. Hudson**, pastor of Concord Baptist Church, president at the annual meeting this morning at First Baptist Church. He succeeds **Rev. A. J. Moncrief Jr.**, pastor of Bayshore Baptist Church. Other officers are **Rev. Harry A. Day**, pastor of Spencer Memorial Baptist Church, vice president, and **Rev. T. H. York**, secretary, re-elected. Members of the program committee are **Rev. J. F. Plainfield**, **Rev. S. S. Mathis** and **Rev. York**.



New Pastor



REV. J. N. HUDSON

Members of the congregation of the Second Baptist church will hear the new pastor, the **Rev. John N. Hudson**, new pastor of the church, in his first sermon today. The **Rev. Mr. Hudson** accepted a call to the local church recently after serving for 10 years as pastor of the Concord Baptist church, Tampa.

Rev. Hudson At Bay Haven

Rev. John N. Hudson, retired Chaplain of the Armed Forces, will preach at both services at Bay Haven Baptist Church. **Rev. Hudson** was pastor of Bay Haven from 1937 to 1941. The morning worship begins at 11 and evening service at 6 followed by Training Union. Deacon Frank Morrow will assist at both services.

Rev. Charles H. Beal, pastor of Bay Haven, will preach in revival services in Washington, Ga.

Interim Pastor Is Announced

Rev. John N. Hudson has been called as interim pastor to Nokomis Baptist Chapel. **Rev. Hudson** is a retired chaplain and is now living in Sarasota where he was a pastor before entering the service.

The new church is located in Nokomis on Shore Road.

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JAMES NORTON HUDSON

James Norton Hudson, formerly of Sarasota, died unexpectedly at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City Sunday. He was 34.

Mr. Hudson had lived in New York City for the last four years and was assistant to the director of the American Ballet Company. He was a dancer and had worked in Chicago and elsewhere before moving to New York. He was a member of the Dance Masters of America.

Born in Tampa, he moved with his parents to Sarasota in 1937. His father, the Rev. John N. Hudson, became pastor of Bay Haven Baptist Church.

Mr. Hudson was graduated from Sarasota High School in 1951 and attended Florida State University where he majored in business administration before becoming a dancer. He was a

member of the First Baptist Church, Enterprise, Ala. where he had lived for awhile.

Besides his father, he is survived by his mother, Mrs. John N. Hudson, both of Whitfield Estates, Sarasota; two brothers, John Grant Hudson of Brandon, and Robert Lee Hudson of Fort Lauderdale, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. at Shannon's Whitfield Chapel, 7511 N. Tamiami Trail. The Rev. Ralph Lebkuecher, pastor of Bay Shore Baptist Church, will officiate, assisted by Dr. Howard L. Arthur, a retired Baptist minister.

Burial will be in Manasota Memorial Park. Friends may call at the funeral home on Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Pallbearers will be Ned Cobb, George Fosler, Peter Timmerman, George McFadden, W. E. Moss, Robert Kimbrough—and two honorary pallbearers, Bill Tatum and Bill Allen, all of Sarasota.

HUDSON RESIGNS TO ANSWER CALL FOR ARMY WORK

The Rev. John N. Hudson, who has been called to active service with the 124th infantry, U. S. Army, today announced his resignation as pastor of the Second Baptist church, effective December 1.

The Rev. Mr. Hudson has been a chaplain in the reserve forces for several years, and has the rank of first lieutenant. He said today Sarasota would continue to be his home and that his family would remain here.

The pastor wrote the following letter of resignation to his church:

"In view of the fact that there exists in our country a national emergency, based upon a war condition in Europe, threatened dangers in the Pacific and at home, and of the fact that I have been a chaplain in the reserve forces of the U. S. Army for some years, I am answering the call to active duty on mobilization day, which has been set (by the newspapers) as November 25.

"As it is impossible for me to comply with the terms of my contract with you (due to present uncertainty as to definite date) specifying that (under normal conditions) I am to give the church 60 days notice before resignation, I am tendering my resignation to be effective on or about December 1st. Nothing less than a national emergency, which affects me as an of-

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HUDSON RESIGNS TO ANSWER CALL FOR ARMY WORK

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ficer in the armed forces of our nation, would cause me to resign this field of service.

"I have enjoyed the fellowship, friendship, prayers, and interest of God's people in this church and city, and I should like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all who have expressed their appreciation to us in any way. It is with deep feeling that I leave, and let me repeat, nothing less than a call to service would prompt me to do this. I should like to say that I am by no means giving up the ministry in making this decision, as I shall serve as chaplain with the 124th infantry, U. S. Army. My duties there will be very similar to my civilian pastoral duties and it is not to be looked upon in any sense as giving up the church, or the work of God, but as being called to the same work in another sphere. Whenever it is within my power or ability to help the religious life of this community, I shall be ready and willing to do so. I shall remain a member of this church, though not its active pastor. My family will continue to stay in Sarasota, and serve as faithful members of this church.

"I leave with the highest regard for all, and pray God's benediction to rest upon my successor, and the people he is to serve. With grateful acknowledgment of the cooperation of all, and my special tribute to the splendid deacon board, who have served so faithfully, sacrificially, and prayerfully with me, I remain . . ."