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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Smith, Robert W. graduated from the Baptist Bible Seminary, Johnson City, New York. He served as pastor of churches in Kentucky and Florida including Hillsdale Baptist Church, (aka Buffalo Avenue), Tampa. Smith served as a missionary in Liberia, Africa for 14 years prior to his Florida pastorate. He and his wife, Mary A. Dean Smith had seven children.

Hillsdale Baptist Church stands today because of the goodness of God and the faithfulness of His servants over the years -- to God be the glory!

In 1962 Hillsdale was formed out of the former Buffalo Avenue Baptist Church, one of the great churches of Tampa in those years. This newly formed church would have to find a suitable place to meet for services and begin their new ministry. They located property near Hillsborough Avenue and Dale Mabry highway and began meeting in a single story building. Rev. Harold Bowe was the first pastor but retired within a few years. After a brief term by Rev. Robert Smith, the church called Alan Bradshaw and his wife, LuAnn, from a small church in Georgia to serve as their Pastor in 1965.

God used Pastor Bradshaw and those early members to raise up Hillsdale as a Gospel lighthouse in Tampa. Beginning with a small congregation in the backyard of a chicken farm, hundreds were won to Christ, baptized and discipled to use their talents for the Lord's work. Their vision and tireless effort resulted in the need for a number of building projects on the corner of Henry and Church Avenues spanning the 60's, 70's, and 80's producing nearly 60,000 square feet of space. The excitement of those days grew proportionately as the ministry increased and expanded. New ministerial staff (youth, music, visitation, and children's ministries) helped broaden the scope of Hillsdale's outreach. Hillsdale Baptist Church - old auditorium

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people for the healing ministry.

New Pastor, Hillsdale

Rev. Robert W. Smith has assumed his duties as pastor of the Hillsdale Baptist Church, 5800 N. Church St., and will fill the pulpit in the regular services tomorrow.

Rev. Mr. Smith has served as a missionary in Liberia, Africa for 14 years. He was commissioned by the Baptist Mid-Mission Board.

Mr. Smith is a graduate of the Baptist Bible Seminary, Johnson City, N.Y. He was pastor of a church in Prestonburg, Ky., before going to Africa. The minister married Mary A. Dean, also a graduate of the seminary, and the couple have seven children.

The Hillsdale Baptist Church will build a new parsonage for the pastor's family.