

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

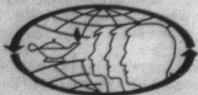
This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.

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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Smyly, Clifford James (1910-1988) was a native of Mississippi. He graduated from Mississippi College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Smyly served as pastor of churches in Texas, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Florida including Canal Point Baptist Church. He was the state training union secretary in Florida from 1960 to 1966. Smyly and his wife, Mattie Rawls Smyly, had one daughter and one son.

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Celebration marks 25 years of student ministry at USF

Students who attended the University of South Florida as early as 1963 returned to Tampa recently from as far away as Fort Worth, Texas, to renew friendships and commemorate the influence of the school's 25-year-old Baptist Campus Ministry.

More than 100 BCM "alumni" attended a May 13-14 celebration that marked a quarter century of Baptist student ministry at the university. Two evening events and an afternoon picnic provided the framework for the festivities, which included recognition of 20 former BCM summer missionaries and speaker-phone telephone calls to three previous campus ministry directors.

Alumni also toured the university campus, which has grown in 28 years from 1,300 students to 32,000. Current BCM students helped host the reunion events and provided food and activities for 35 children of visiting alumni.

Tom Cleary, current BCM director at the university, recalled BCM activities of previous years and told celebrants, "We celebrate the past because it means so much to the present."

Alumni spoke of the influence of the campus ministry and its directors on their lives. Larry McDowell, who graduated in 1976, expressed thanks for growth opportunities provided by BCM. "We didn't know we were getting trained to be leaders, but we were," he said.

Barbara Yost, an associate director from 1963 to 1967, recalled the influence of missions conferences. BCM has sent out more than 80 summer missionaries since 1963.

Joe Webb, director of student ministry for the Florida Baptist Convention, said seeing

the results of 25 years of student ministry at USF was "one of my greatest pleasures." Webb helped initiate the USF campus ministry and dedicate the BCM building in 1963, the year the school graduated its first class.

BCM director at FSU enters private counseling practice

Shuford Davis, associate in the student work department of the Florida Baptist Convention for more than 17 years, has resigned to enter private practice in marriage and family therapy effective Aug. 31.

As an associate in the department, Davis has served as the Baptist campus minister at Florida State University in Tallahassee since 1971. During that time, Davis estimated more than 300 students went on to seminary following college. Twelve former students are serving on the home and foreign mission fields.

Upon completion of a doctorate in marriage and family therapy from Florida State University in 1983, Davis practiced in a "very limited way."

"We have felt led to do this on a full-time basis," he said, adding the transition represents a "change in life's direction and ministry."

Prior to assuming the campus-ministry position, Davis was summer minister of youth at University Church in Coral Gables from 1966-68 and associate pastor at First Church, Tallahassee, from 1969-71.



Davis

Claude M. Coalson, retired pastor and missions leader, dies

Claude M. Coalson, former superintendent of missions and pastor in Florida, died Aug. 19 at 92.

Coalson served the Northeast Florida Association from 1951 to 1961, and helped in start 40 churches in the area while he was superintendent of missions. He also was pastor of Hendricks Avenue Church in Jacksonville from 1946 to 1951.

After retiring from the association in 1961, Coalson became minister of visitation at Arlington Church, Jacksonville. During that time, he served as interim pastor of 27 churches and taught pastoral theology at Luther Rice Seminary.

He is survived at two daughters, Annelle C. Wells of Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Carolyn C. Johnson of Jacksonville.

Former state training union leader dies

Funeral services for Clifford James Smyly, 78, were held Aug. 1 at First Church, Columbia, Miss.

Smyly, who served as Florida's state training union secretary (1960-66), also served 58 years as pastor of churches in Texas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Florida.

He is survived by his wife, Mattie Rawls, of Columbia; one son, Clifford Smyly Jr. of Girard Ga.; and one daughter, Martha Ellen Leonard of Jacksonville.

Clifford Smyly

Named Training Union Leader

The **Rev. Clifford J. Smyly** has been elected as Training Union secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention, to succeed the late O. K. Radford. This announcement was made by Dr. John Maguire, the executive secretary of the Florida Baptist Convention.

A native of Mississippi, Mr. **Smyly** has served as an associate in the Sunday school department of the Convention in Florida since 1953. Prior to coming to the Convention he was pastor of Canal Point Baptist Church, Canal Point. While pastor there he also served as associational Sunday school superintendent.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College with a B.A. degree, and of Southern Seminary with a Th.M degree. He is married and has two children.

Smyly will begin his duties with the Training Union Department on June 1, 1960.

Revival Starting At Canal Point

CANAL POINT—The Rev. L. T. Fagan, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Arcadia, will conduct a revival at the Canal Point Baptist Church, March 23-28.

There will be two services each day throughout the revival. This Sunday the services will start at the regular time, 11 am and 7:45 pm. Each week day, Monday through Friday, the morning service will start at 7:30 and end at 8:15, and the evening service will start at 7:45.

Mr. Fagan will be assisted by the Rev. Clifford J. Smyly, pastor of the Canal Point Church. School children attending the morning services will be taken to their schools in private cars before school starts, Mr. Smyly announced.

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THE REV. Clifford J. Smyly, pastor of the Canal Point Baptist Church, resigned Sunday night to become an associate to the Sunday School Secretary of Florida Baptist Convention. The Rev. Mr. Smyly has been pastor of the local church for the last three years. He received his education at Mississippi College and Southern Baptist Seminary of Louisville, Ky. His resignation will become effective May 1. April 26 will be his last Sunday as pastor.