

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

Southerland, James E. (1915-2002) was born in Wauchula, Florida the son of Fred and Clara



Louise Warlick Southerland. Southerland was converted at age ten, and baptized into the membership of First Baptist Church in Wauchula in 1925. He was ordained at Wauchula in 1938. He married Mabel Arthur of Orlando, and they had three children. Southerland attended Stetson University (B.A.), The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Th.M.), and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (Th.D.). He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Titusville; Avondale Baptist Church in Jacksonville, First Baptist Church, Oxford, Mississippi, and Heritage Baptist Church of Dothan, Alabama. Southerland was a chaplain in the United States Army Air Corps in World War II. He served as registrar at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and interim and supply pastor in many churches. Southerland served as President of Baptist Bible Institute for 20 years (1957-1977) and held the title of President Emeritus at the time of his death in 2002.

Baptist Bible Institute Is Given Surprise Party

Dr. James E. Southerland, president of Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, Fla., was honored at a surprise party on the occasion of passing his 40th year in the ministry and his 60th birthday.

An open house was held at the home of his son, Rev. David Southerland, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Headland, Ala., where Dr. Southerland had just completed a week of revival. Approximately 300 church members and guests stopped by to congratulate Dr. Southerland.

Refreshments were served, including a cake baked in the shape of an open Bible. "Sixty years of age" and "forty years of service" were inscribed on the pages, as well as "thank you, Jimmy."

Born in Wauchula, Fla., Dr. Southerland married the former Mabel Arthur, of Orlando. He received degrees from Stetson University, Deland; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.; attended the summer session at New College, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and did additional work at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

He has pastored the First Baptist Church of Titusville, Fla.; Avondale Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; and the First Baptist Church of Oxford.

Dr. Southerland served in the United States Air Force as

chaplain for three years and spent approximately four years as a teacher of homilectics there. He was also a member of the Southern Baptist seminaries, which is located in Nashville, Tenn.

A former member of the board of trustees of the Carver School of Missions and Social Work in Louisville, Ky., Dr. Southerland served as vice-chairman and a member of the executive committee of the board. He visited Baptist missions in Central America, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil and the Dominican Republic in 1960; was one of the 100 ministers of the Southern Baptist Convention invited to preach in the greater Jamaican crusade in 1965 and was speaker for Founders Day at the New Orleans seminary October 1, 1970.

Adult Retreat Is Planned

He visited Baptist missions around the world in 1970, and upon invitation of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention was the preacher and Bible teacher for the annual session of the mission in Ecuador in 1971.

Dr. Southerland is also a member and past president of the Graceville Lions Club.

He is a recipient of the highly coveted distinguished service award for outstanding achievement presented by Stetson University at the Stetson Diamond Jubilee Convocation in 1958, and was also vice-president of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and schools in 1971-72.

James E. Southerland

GRACEVILLE - The Rev.

James E. Southerland, 86, a Southern Baptist minister, died Monday, April 29, 2002.

The service will be at 10 a.m. EDT today at First Baptist Church in Graceville, with the Revs. Tom Kinchen and Bob Johnson officiating. Burial will follow at Marvin Chapel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the **James** and Mabel **Southerland** Scholarship Fund at Baptist College of Florida, 5400 College Drive, Graceville, FL 32440. Williams Funeral Home in Graceville (850-263-5116) is handling arrangements.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mabel **Southerland** of Graceville; three children, Carol Ann Knight (and husband David) of Graceville, David **Southerland** (and wife Mary Lynn) of Tallahassee and Becky Barr (and husband Mike) of Dothan, Ala.; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Southerland's Father Dies

Fred B. Southerland, father of Dr. James E. Southerland, president of Baptist Bible Institute, died Thursday while visiting in Graceville.

Mr. Southerland, 73, was a native and lifelong resident of Wauchula, Fla. He was a retired accountant and member of First Baptist Church.

Funeral services will be announced. The body will be shipped by Mitchell Funeral Home of Graceville to Wauchula for burial. The family has asked that flowers be omitted, but if desired a contribution made to BBI library fund.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Sarah Southerland; two sons, Dr. James E. Southerland and Earl Southerland of Jacksonville; one daughter, Mrs. Bedford Prescott of Wauchula; one brother, Sam Southerland of Wauchula; one sister, Mrs. Paul Thomas of Wauchula; and seven grandchildren.