

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

Anderson, William Emory “Bill”, Jr., (b. 1935) a native of Humble, Texas, was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Clearwater, from 1975 to 2001. In 1982, Anderson served as President of the Florida Baptist State Convention. He previously served four Texas Baptist churches: First Baptist, Euless, (1966-1975); First Baptist, McGregor, (1964-1966); Lorena Baptist, Lorena, (1960-1964); and Central Baptist, Ingleside, (1959-1960). Upon retirement from Calvary Baptist Church, Anderson served as President, Covenant Christian Academy, Colleyville, Texas. He attended and graduated from Baylor University (B.A., 1958) and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (B.Div., 1963). He later received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity College, Dunedin, Florida, in 1978. Anderson married (m. 1956) Addie Belle Williams (b. 1934; d. 2021) of Refugio, Texas. The couple had four children.



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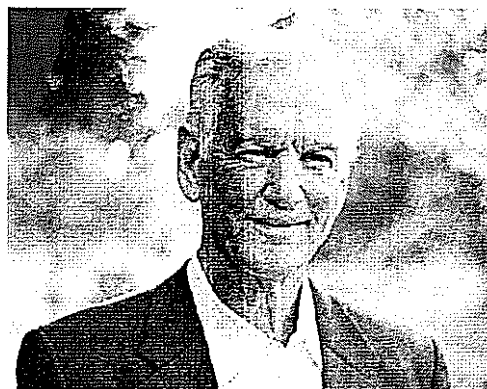
William Emory Anderson, Jr.

PERSONAL

Born in Humble, Texas, November 1, 1935, to Mr. and Mrs. William Emory Anderson

EDUCATION

Graduated from Refugio High School in 1954, from Baylor University in 1958 (BA in Religion, minor in English), and from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1963 (BD). Finished a year's graduate work at Baylor toward the MA in 1964. Received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity College, Dunedin, Florida, in 1978.



HONORS

All-District, All-State, All-South Texas, All-Southwest Conference in football. Outstanding Lineman in Texas High School North-South All-star game. Sophomore Class President, Baylor University, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Co-Chairman of Focus Week (annual religious emphasis week) at Baylor University, Outstanding Citizen Award, Euless, Texas.

FAMILY

Married Addie Williams of Refugio in 1956. Four children: Mark (pastor of Lynwood Baptist Church, Cape Girardeau, MO, Karen May, (wife of Mike May, president & owner of Spear One, Colleyville, Texas), Gaye Hasha (wife of Mike Hasha, Director of Missions, Ridge Association, Winter Haven, FL), and Hazel Hall (wife of Dan Hall, businessman in Jackson, MS)

VOCATIONAL

1959-1960	Central Baptist Church, Ingleside, TX
1960-1964	Lorena Baptist Church, Lorena, TX
1964-1966	First Baptist Church, McGregor, TX
1966-1975	First Baptist Church, Euless, TX
1975-2001	Calvary Baptist Church, Clearwater, FL
2003-2009	President, Covenant Christian Academy, Colleyville, TX

at the Calvary Baptist Church in Clearwater, Florida, under the leadership and mentorship of Dr. William (Bill) Anderson. Today Willy serves as the Senior Pastor of Calvary.

Willy is married to Cheryl (Baker) whom he met at Calvary Baptist Church when they were both involved in the student ministry there. They began dating when Willy was a freshman in college and they married three years later. Cheryl was born December 17, 1964; the second of three daughters to Ronald C. and Patricia A. Baker. In 1974, her family moved to MacDill AFB in Tampa, Florida, finally settling down in Seminole, Florida. It was here that God began to challenge her faith. At the invitation of a colleague of her father's, she attended Calvary. After several months of sitting under strong biblical preaching she and her family began to realize that there was something missing in their lives. In a Jay Strack Crusade, at the age of 16, she decided to commit her life to Christ and receive Him as her Lord and Savior.

Cheryl graduated from Osceola High School in 1983 and went on to Samford University. Cheryl graduated cum laude from Samford in May of 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. She has been active in ministry, teaching Bible studies and discipleship classes from the time they married.

Willy and Cheryl are blessed with three children Amanda Leigh born in 1988, Anna Ruth born in 1990, and Stephen Benjamin born in 1993.

During his college years Willy served as a youth revival speaker for the Alabama Baptist State Convention conducting scores of revivals across the state. At 20 years



of age he became the pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church in Dora, Alabama. After 3 ½ years he moved and became the pastor of a new mission church that Calvary Baptist in Clearwater was planting. From 1987 through 1992 Willy pastored the Cypress Lake Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida. Starting with just 12 members the church would constitute 4 years later with over 120 members. In 1992 Pastor Willy and Cheryl left to become the pastor of the Gladeview Baptist Church in Anniston, Alabama. God's blessing was on that church and it experienced growth in ministry and numbers. In 1993 the church broke ground on a new worship center and then celebrated its dedication in 1994.





In 1997 Pastor Willy accepted the call to come and pastor Hillcrest Baptist Church. With a tremendous gift of vision, he led the church to press boldly into the future. He pressed for more pastoral staff adding a Director of Children's Ministries, Director of Preschool Ministries, an Associate Pastor of Evangelism and Missions, Associate Pastor of Collegiate and Singles Ministries, and an Associate Pastor of Leadership and Adult Discipleship. He saw the benefits that having qualified people on staff would bring and how these progressive steps would enhance growth, and grow we did! Hillcrest had an average attendance of 550 in Sunday School and 600 in worship in September 1997, the month Brother Willy came. By early 2004, the average attendance was 1,200 in Sunday School and 1600 in worship. He encouraged us to look at our Sunday School structure and our various worship services to discover ways we might need to change to serve our community and our

world better. He encouraged us to send more people to the mission field and we began sending more people several times a year overseas to do mission work.

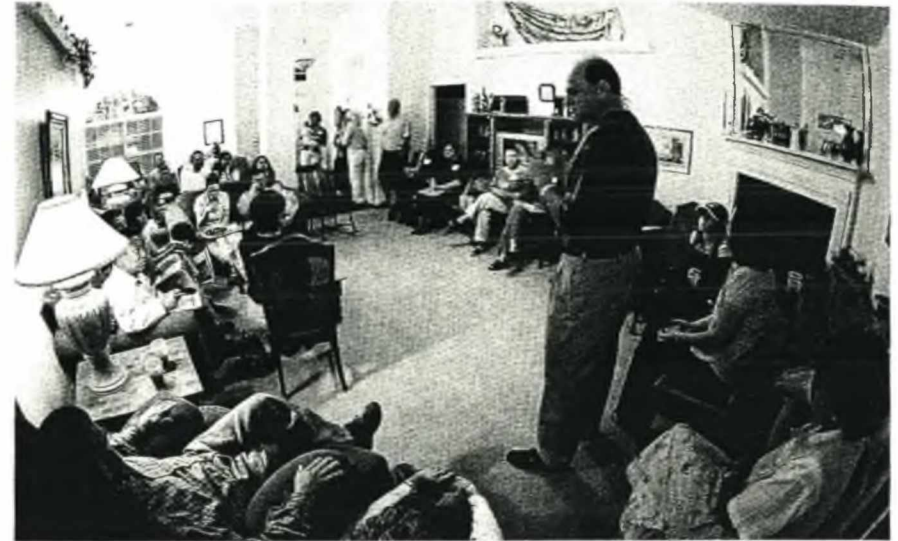
With the tremendous growth of the church new buildings became increasingly necessary. In December of 2000 the church broke ground on a new 2,000-seat worship center. Hillcrest appreciates all he did to help us bring this New Century Vision Campaign to a reality. Money given through this campaign not only reduced the debt to 4.5 million dollars but also enabled the church to purchase over 1 million dollars of additional property that will be needed for future expansion. During this period God blessed Hillcrest with a tremendous growth in membership and in spiritual development. In December of 2000 the church broke ground on the current worship center and in the spring of 2002 the church dedicated the facility it now occupies. Pastor Willy led in the New Century Vision Campaign that resulted in this building project. As the church continued to experience growth, Pastor Willy charted the course for the future with the Generations Campaign in the spring of 2004 to fund the construction of new state-of-the-art Children's Ministry Building.

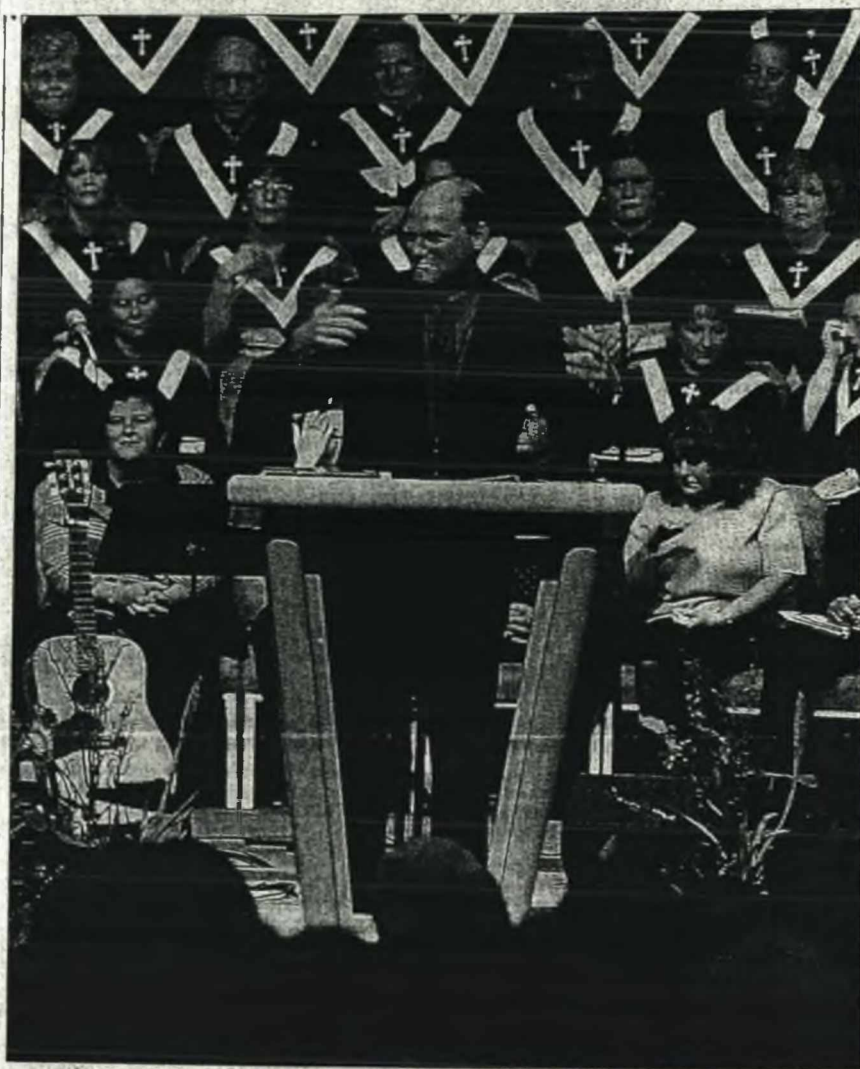




As of summer 2004, that project was put on hold. After serving at Hillcrest for seven years, Pastor Willy tearfully shared with the Hillcrest family in August of 2004 that he knew God was now calling him back to his home church in Clearwater, Florida.

Willy and Cheryl remember their years at Hillcrest with incredible gratitude. Pastor Willy has said, "For me Hillcrest represents a Camelot of sorts, a time when every hope and aspiration for ministry came true. We had big dreams and because of the support of the Hillcrest family and the blessings of God we got to take an incredible journey together. We will always be grateful for our days in Pensacola. If love were the call we would be there still. But I know for Hillcrest the greatest days are still ahead and that God has brought a wonderful man to lead them on to the next great victory."





John Blackie@PensacolaNewsJournal.com



Capacity crowd opens new church

The Rev. William Rice, above, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, opens a new 2,000-seat worship center on Nine Mile Road on Sunday morning. At more than 2,800 members, the church's membership has doubled in five years. Sunday school attendance tops 900 each week. The executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention, John Sullivan, PhD., was the guest speaker for the morning service. The choir also performed. Sunday evening, Olive Baptist Church's congregation worshiped with Hillcrest in the new building.

DEDICATION REMEMBERED

March 24, 2002

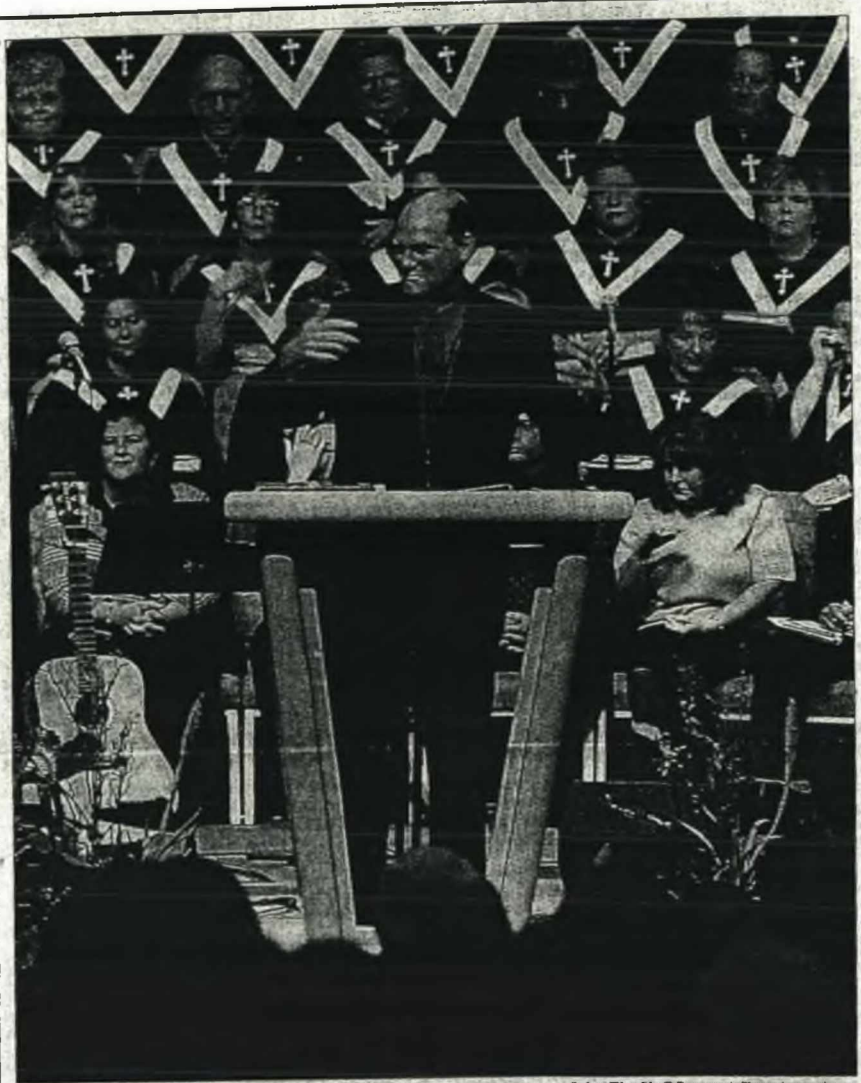
With a list of distinguished guests and a variety of speakers, Hillcrest gathered for the official dedication service of our new worship center. God's man of the hour was Dr. Willy Rice who through fasting, prayer, and dedication had led this church family to achieve the awesome goal of building a new worship center to meet the needs of the growing congregation of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

Sharing in this special time was the Building Task Force led by Brother Don Wilson. Though often silent in their labor, the nine members had given many hours of service to help accomplish this goal. Brother Don Wilson was there from the first shovel of dirt until the last chair was in place with his sweet spirit and kind face making the task less complicated.

Brother Willy and Cheryl also shared this moment with our first pastor's wife, Mrs. Milly Lastinger. Miss Milly reminded us that it took Brother Willy's leadership to get us into this great worship center.



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We acknowledge God's blessing in our growth as a church and thanks to all of you who worked to give us this great worship center. We especially say thank you to Dr. Willy Rice for the part he played in making Hillcrest what it is today. We ask that God bless him in whatever church he serves.

A PUMPKIN IS JUST A PUMPKIN

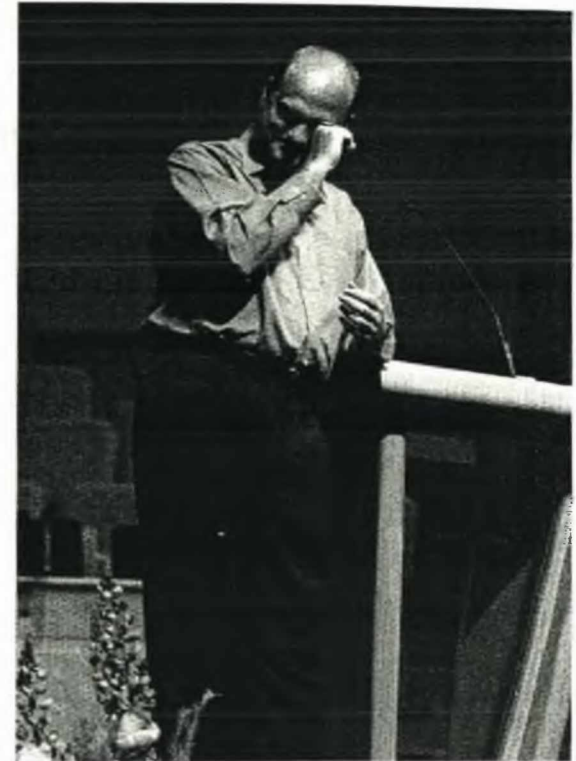
How did God use Brother Willy to change me? Well, Brother Willy taught me to call "a pumpkin, a pumpkin." Let me explain. Prior to joining Hillcrest, I had become a bit legalistic. Biblical knowledge, rather than the Author, had become my passion. When I felt convinced of the answer to a gray area the Bible didn't speak clearly to, I immediately went to work to teach others why "such and such" is wrong or why you "do it this way." I found myself having a critical spirit toward those who didn't share my opinion. That was who I was when our family first started visiting Hillcrest under Brother Willy.

On Halloween night, a Wednesday that year I believe, I overheard the Rice's discussing getting their son home to trick-or-treat at their neighbors' houses. I was appalled. "Here is the leader of this church we're visiting allowing his children to participate in Halloween!" Never mind his youngest was still young. Never mind that it was a relation-building exercise with his neighbors. I didn't know if I could join such a church because I knew the truth of the origins of Halloween. Didn't he? Well, he elaborated to the church with a logical explanation that resonated with me. He said (paraphrasing) while I know the stories told about Halloween, I don't believe that God looks down from Heaven to judge a kid going to his neighbor's

house dressed up to get candy. In that child's heart, he's not worshipping pagan gods. He's not lighting the pumpkin as a symbol or tribute to those beliefs held by the druids. He's simply having fun. If your family doesn't want to participate, you don't have to. But, I don't get into all the arguments of what the pumpkin symbolizes. "A pumpkin is still just a pumpkin to me."

That is just one example. Brother Willy had a way of cutting through all the bits and pieces of any matter and getting to the heart of it with biblical teachings.

His focus on "keeping the main thing, the main thing" kept him and Hillcrest from being sidetracked with the disputable matters during his tenure at Hillcrest. He was a great leader and teacher.



Source

HILLCREST HERITAGE A LASTING LEGACY

1955-2005

Hillcrest Baptist Church

800 East Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, Florida 32514

www.hbcpensacola.org

Published October 2005

2004-2006	Interim Pastor, First Baptist, Euless, TX
2006-2007	Interim Pastor, First Baptist, Dallas, TX
2007-2008	Interim Pastor, First Baptist, Wichita Falls, TX
2008-2009	Interim Pastor, First Baptist, Sulphur Springs, TX
2010-2011	Interim Pastor, First Baptist, Gainesville, Texas
2012-2013	Interim Pastor, First Baptist, Grapevine, TX

RELIGIOUS

Associational: Various positions, including that of Moderator, Chairman of various committees (Missions, Evangelism, Race Relations, Administrative, Finance, Search Committee for Director of Missions, etc.)

State: Florida Baptist Convention President, Chairman of Trustees, Baptist Theological College, Chairman, Budget and Allocations Committee, Vice-chairman of the Board of Directors, Florida Baptist Children's Homes, member of State Board of Missions, Board of Directors, Florida Baptist Witness.

National: Chairman of the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), SBC Committee on Committees, Vice-chairman, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

OTHER

- Board of Directors, Christian Television Network.
- Has spoken at various conferences/conventions, such as Muskoka Bible Conferences, Ontario, Canada, People's Church, Toronto (in connection with the Baptist World Alliance), Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, Sunday Evening Club, Chicago, Illinois, Jesus Festival '82, Tampa, Florida, Ridgecrest and Glorieta (Sunday School weeks, Recreation Labs, Preaching Week, Seniors' Chatauquas), several state conventions, evangelism conferences, pastor's conferences at regional and national levels, etc.
- Led in establishing four church-type missions, two Hispanic churches, and the Bay Area Pregnancy Center.
- Has been involved, extensively, in various overseas mission projects.
- Preached in Canada, Japan, Korea, China, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico, and Scotland.
- Has spoken in church-growth and Sunday School growth conferences in local, regional, state, and national settings, including university and seminary settings
- Directed three city-wide evangelistic crusades
- Vice-Chairman of two Billy Graham Crusades (1978 and 1998), Tampa, Florida.
- Board member and vice-chairman of Christian Television Network Board.
- Extensive writing for Southern Baptist Sunday Board, North American Mission Board.
- Author of "Rapture? Sure...But When?" Green Key Publishers, 2003.
- Founder of three Christian schools.
- President of Covenant Christian Academy, Colleyville, Texas, 2003-2009
- Current Chancellor Emeritus, Covenant Christian Academy.

CIVIC

- Chaplain of Police and Fire Departments in two cities
- Director of "Goals for Euless" program, Euless, Texas
- Steering Committee of Council on Social Concerns, Euless, TX
- Chairman and other offices of various Ministerial Alliances, Traffic Safety Council, Euless, Texas
- Chairman of Directors, Baptist Estates of Clearwater, Inc. for five years (BECI was a five-facility chain of

retirement hotels).

- Active Rotarian for five years
- Regular visitor, and host of, religious talk shows on Channel 22, CTN, Largo, Florida
- Weekly radio and television broadcast for over 25 years



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FOLLOW BILL



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haven't you had it "up to here" with those who are always embarrassed about anything "Christian"? Some are so afraid Muslims, Buddhists, Hare Krishnas, Hindus, Hebrews or atheists are going to be offended by what we say or what we do. I readily agree that our approach must not be belligerent or offensive. At the same time we cannot be truly Christian and hide our heads under a bushel.

If it is the principles of Christianity that have fought slavery and established human rights wherever they have been allowed to grow—if it is the framework of Christian principles that has given democracy a chance to grow and prosper in this land on a greater scale than anywhere else in the world, why do Christians always apologize for something that is labeled "Christian"?

Let's stop our breast smiting and our wearing of sackcloth and ashes for a list of things someone else did in another period of history. Everybody has something to lament. Very few things are completely bare of skeletons. It is not the place, however, of Christians to be ashamed of their name, their heritage or the stand they take on issues of the day. When Jesus told us to turn the other cheek He did not intend that we should be expected to hunt down somebody to smite it for. The common, everyday battle against wrong is going to bring about a share of martyrdom without our apology for what we are trying to do in the name of Christ.

As a Christian I do not have to be apologetic about my convictions about things like homosexuality, abortion, alcohol and drug consumption, gambling and pornography, indecent exposure of the human body in public places and a host of other "freedoms" that people are seeking to "enjoy." As a Christian I do have to be true to my convictions and true to what the Bible has to say about every area of life.

As a Christian I cannot "sit down and shut up" as we are often advised to. The apostle said, "We must speak the things which we have both seen and heard." It is not our place to be grammatically objectionable, but it is our place to be Scripturally objective and unashamedly Christian! For further information, write or call: United Christian Action, Inc., 30 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207, (904) 396-1710.



James L. Monroe



Richard Jackson



Win Arn



Bill Anderson

Limited Space for Church Growth Institute

Pre-registrations are coming in rapidly for the Church Growth Institute, Aug. 25-27, at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly. Sessions begin at 1:30 on Monday afternoon and conclude with the noon meal on Wednesday. This is the fifth annual meeting and is planned especially for pastors, church staff, general Sunday School directors and outreach directors and other key church leaders.

Leaders for this institute include: Richard Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Win Arn, president and executive director, American Church Growth, Pasadena, Calif.; Leon Kilbreth, Sunday School evangelist, Herrin, Ill.; Larry Black, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.; Bill Anderson, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Clearwater; and James L. Monroe, pastor, First Baptist Church, Fort Walton Beach.

The institute will be directed jointly by James A. Ponder, director, Evangelism Department, and James E. Frost, director, Sunday School Department of the Florida Baptist Convention. Other convention staff members will be meaningfully involved in leadership.

Limited space is available for this institute; pastors and other leaders are urged to request pre-registration immediately. A registration fee of \$8 should accompany the registration request. Room and meals for the two days will be \$20, double occupancy.

This institute is a vital part of

another job for 12 Stetson University students; it means an opportunity for firsthand involvement in missions. They represent a variety of majors, from biology to music education, and they will serve in a variety of ways, from backyard Bible clubs to starting new churches. But they all share a common motivation—a commitment to missions and a desire to share their faith in Christ.

For two of these students, both May graduates, this summer is the beginning of a two-year period of service. Stephen M. Spurlock of Port Charlotte will serve in the Home Mission Board's US-2 program as pastor to a new congregation in Dayton, Ohio, where he will assist in starting a new church. Vicki Ward of Marietta, Ga., will serve in the Foreign Mission Board's missionary journeyman program as music and youth director for the Marianas Baptist Church in Agat, Guam. Connie Grant of Silver Springs and Virginia Kirkwood of Belair, Md., both 1979 graduates, are starting their second year as journeymen in Brazil and Japan, respectively.

The other students are strictly summer missionaries for now, so that they may resume their education in the fall. Pam Gaddis of DeLand and George Kern of Englewood are sponsored by the Home Mission Board's student summer missions program. Pam will be teaching in Vacation Bible Schools and conducting backyard Bible clubs in Georgia. George is representing the board as a summer missionary in Oklahoma. Sharon Cook of Lake City, who is sponsored by the Florida Baptist Convention's Sunday School Department, is conducting Vacation Bible Schools in churches which could not have them otherwise.

Four students are working in the Baptist Campus Ministry summer missions program of the Florida Baptist Convention. Brenda Halbrooks of Titusville is in Virginia to assist in establishing a community center in a low-income area and to work with backyard Bible clubs. Patti Judah of Greenville is in Badajoz, Spain, helping to establish a Baptist mission through youth work, street ministry, visitation and

Florida Baptist Convention's Bold Mission Thrust. Churches and associational leaders from those associations conducting Church Growth Crusades in the spring of 1981 are especially urged to participate.

backyard Bible camps for missionally distressed churches. Langley of BCM summer

Three students in Evangelism Department, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla., will serve in the leading youth

Charles F. Stetson's Baptist Church Relations Committee, the students are sending their Stetson doing an excellent job for Christ.

Training For

The four Brotherhood of Churches, been scheduled for October Brotherhood Divisional leaders

Halifax
Pensacola
Middle
Northeast
Lafayette

These women are training for Men and Women's organization association for development place.

Don't miss get the lead in the work.

Sta
Leads

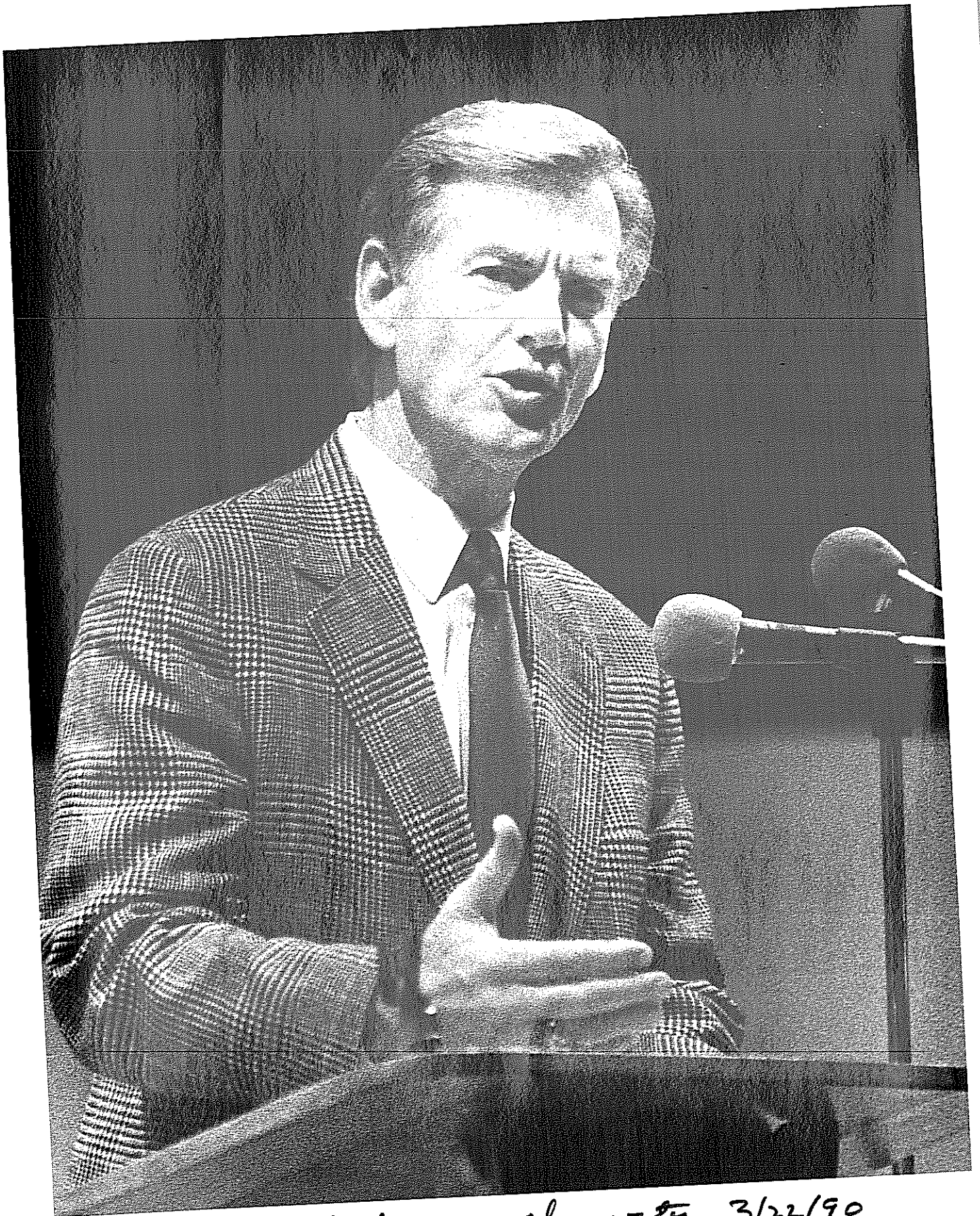
Plan to conference Five one-hour provided for inspiration watching tapes of details.

William E. ~~Smith~~ Anderson

William E.

~~Smith~~ Anderson served as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Clearwater. He also served as president of the Florida Baptist Convention in 1982.

Secondary Source:
FBHS Files



Rev. Bill Anderson Clearwater 3/22/90
Colony BC