

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

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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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Stalnecker, Edward I. (1932-2007) served as pastor and evangelist in the Southern Baptist Convention for over 30 years with his family in their Strength For Living Crusade. He was a native of Winter Haven and a graduate of Louisiana State University and Luther Rice Seminary. Stalnecker served as pastor of River City Baptist Church, Jacksonville. He and his wife Bette Stalnecker had two sons.



They Enjoy Religious Music With A Rock Beat

... patrons shown are the Rev. and Mrs. Norman Jameson from Illinois

Music Is Loud, Drinks Soft In The 'Gospel Night Club'

DALLAS (UPI) — The music was loud and the drinks were soft and the place was packed.

There were no tumblers of liquor on the tables of the International Room of the plush Fairmont Hotel. There were only teetotalers sipping soda pop and coffee and the air was free of the cigarette haze common to most nightspots.

The band, dressed like it had just come from Sunday School, played an upbeat version of "Amazing Grace" on amplified electric guitars and drums.

It was the "Gospel Night Club" and it played after 10 p.m. to many of the 15,000 persons attending the 117th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

There were no backsliding Baptists among the standing room only crowd who listened to the music of Ed and Bette Stalnecker and their sons, Rick, 21, and Chip, 17.

Everybody was getting religion.

"One Elmer Gantry can ruin it for the rest of us," said Mrs. Stalnecker, who started the "Gospel Night Club" with her husband 10 years ago for those attending the Baptist convention.

"Many of us are doing our best to change that image of the evangelist who came to town with eight expensive suits, eight sermons and ate all he could and left."

"We had our first open house on our boat at the Atlantic City convention 10 years ago,"

said Mrs. Stalnecker. "More and more people showed up each night after the convention."

The next year, with the convention in Dallas, the Stalneckers held their open house in the penthouse of the downtown Adolphus Hotel, but had to move it to the ballroom when the crowd of conventioners stalled the elevators.

But it's not all fun and games for the Stalneckers.

The family spends 50 of the 52 weeks each year on the road in their new Greyhound bus which has eating, sleeping, bathing and office facilities.

Mrs. Stalnecker won an area audition to the Metropolitan Opera but decided on a religious career. The whole family participates in the singing evangelism with Rick and Chip performing with their parents and composing many of their folk-rock religious songs.

While the Stalneckers live out of a bus, they aren't totally shy of material goods. They have \$100,000 invested in sound equipment and musical instruments. And Mrs. Stalnecker has a passion for diamonds — her husband has given her a jeweled ring, pendant, watch and bracelet.

She said she used to feel selfconscious about the diamonds and asked a fellow evangelist if he approved.

"God didn't promise us heaven on earth," he said. "But you might as well have a few samples of it while you are here."

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OBITUARIES

Baylor's Herbert Reynolds dies at age 77

WACO, Texas (BP)—Herbert Reynolds, president of Baylor University from 1981-95 and an outspoken opponent of conservative theology within the Southern Baptist Convention, died May 25 in Angel Fire, N.M., at the age of 77.

Reynolds' wife, Joy, told the *Waco Herald-Tribune* he believed the cause of death was a heart attack, as Reynolds had a history of heart trouble.

In 1990, Reynolds led Baylor, then a Baptist-affiliated university, to cut most of its formal ties with the Baptist General Convention of Texas to keep conservatives at bay if they ever gained control of the state convention. Under a new charter, Baylor's board of trustees was renamed as a "board of regents," only one-fourth of whom were selected by the BGCT.

In 1994, Reynolds and Baylor's regents established the George W. Truett Theological Seminary

at the Waco-based university, enrolling 51 students, as an alternative to the Southern Baptist Convention's seminaries, which had turned toward conservative theology.



REYNOLDS

Reynolds, while on active duty in the Air Force, initially taught at Baylor from 1956-61 as an assistant professor of aerospace studies and later as a teaching fellow in psychology, during which time he completed a master's degree in psychology and a doctorate in experimental psychology (neuroscience) and clinical psychology. In 1961, he was assigned to the Aeromedical Research Laboratories at Alamogordo, N.M., as deputy commander and director of research related to the U.S. space program.

After retiring from the Air Force, Reynolds returned to Baylor in 1969 as executive vice president and in 1981 became the university's 11th

president, succeeding Abner McCall.

Various Baylor milestones were cited in news accounts of Reynolds' death, including \$180 million in new and renovated facilities during his presidency, a quadrupling of Baylor's endowment and his push for Baylor's place in the Big 12 Conference and for women's athletics. Baylor today has nearly 14,000 students.

In addition to his wife, Reynolds, a native of Frankston, Texas, is survived by three children, Kevin, Kent and Rhonda, and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 30, at First Baptist Church in Waco, with burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

According to a university news release, "Baylor officials are working with the Reynolds family to finalize plans for a campus-wide celebration of the life and contributions to Baylor University of Dr. Reynolds." No date has been announced.

Edward Stalnecker, evangelist, dies at 75

CRYSTAL RIVER (FBW)—Edward I. Stalnecker, 75, former pastor and evangelist, died April 5 in Crystal River. For more than 30 years, he and his family led one-on-one revival meetings in Baptist churches. A native of Winter Haven, he was a graduate of Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and Luther Rice Seminary, Lithonia, Ga. After retirement, he served as pastor of River City Baptist Church in Jacksonville. He is survived by his wife and mother of his stepchildren, Betty; his stepchildren, Randy, Rhonda and Martin; his former wife, Bette, and two sons, Ric and Lauren.



A one-time announcement of special events is a free service provided by the Witness to Florida Baptist churches. Please e-mail materials at least three weeks before the date of the event to nichols@floridabaptistwitness.com. Information may also be mailed to Florida Baptist Witness, 1230 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207, faxed to 904-346-0090, or submitted via the Web site: www.FloridaBaptistWitness.com.

BEULAH

Beulah Baptist Association has called D. James Roberts as director of missions. He most recently served as pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church in Lake City, and previously was pas-

tor of Clayland Baptist Church, Live Oak, First Baptist Church, Eaton Park, Berea Baptist Church, Auburndale, and Bethel Baptist Church, Kingston, Ala. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Roberts is a 1988 graduate of Baptist College of Florida, Graceville. He and his wife, Connie, have one adult son.

JACKSONVILLE

Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its 56th anniversary and Pastor Will A. Waldrop Sr.'s 20th anniversary June 10-11 and June 13. The theme for the celebration is "Seek Him With Your Whole Heart," with meetings June 10, 4 p.m., June 11 and 13, at 7 p.m. The church is located at 8778 Lake Placid Dr. Venetia Terrace Baptist Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 24 at 11 a.m. Hearts Desire will sing, and Mark Smith, Jesse Andrews and Gil Wither, former and current church ministers, will speak. For more information, call 904-779-0171.

LAKE COUNTY

First Baptist Church in Leesburg is hosting a GriefShare support group on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Chapel Prayer Room. The 13-week video series will be facilitated by Donna Zegel. For more information, call 352-787-8734.

MIAMI

Christ Fellowship will mark its 90th anniversary in three services June 16-17. Pastor Emeritus Tommy Watson will speak Saturday at 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Organized as Perrine Baptist Church in 1917, the congregation now includes members born in 76 nations. For more information, call 305-238-5857.

NEW RIVER

Evergreen Baptist Church in Lawry has called Ronald Kimbrell as

pastor. He and his wife, Sue, will move to Lawry from Tracy City, Tenn., where he was pastor of First Baptist Church. He previously served as pastor of Beulah Baptist Church in Green Cove Springs and Ephesus Baptist Church in Hilliard. He holds two degrees, and is pursuing a doctorate, from Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary. The Kimbrells have two adult daughters and six grandchildren. Beulah Baptist Church in Middleburg recently honored Pastor Wescoat Holloway on his 50th anniversary in the ministry. Ordained by First Baptist Church in Alachua in 1956, Holloway has served churches in Alabama, Georgia and Florida. He is a graduate of Baptist

College of Florida, Gainesville; and Luther Rice Seminary, Lithonia, Ga. He and his wife, Barbara, have three children and three grandchildren.

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Says Bette Stalnecker, Sacred Music Recording Artist

'Christians Should Dedicate Their Talents To God'

By JOE WILLIAMS
(Church Editor)

"I think all Christians should dedicate their talents to God."

Speaking was singer Bette Stalnecker, sacred music recording artist, who will appear with her husband, Edward, at Bibletown U.S.A. in Boca Raton tonight and tomorrow night. The programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

At the age of 12, Bette dedicated her talents in the service of the Lord. She and her husband have devoted their lives to sacred music.

For the past three years the Stalneckers have been traveling and singing in churches throughout the nation.

In December Bette went to Europe as a soloist for the London Emmanuel Choir, where

she became the first—and to date the only—American to be invited to appear as a soloist there.

Bette got off to a good start singing sacred songs because her first album, "He Reached Down His Hand For Me," sold 24,000 records.

RECORD DUETS

She and Edward teamed up to record duet albums, one of which is "Above the Clouds."

Bette records with four American sacred recording companies at present and recently

was offered a seven-year contract from Capitol Records, which at this time she had not accepted, and apparently has no intention of doing so.

The Stalneckers are members of the Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., where they worship while not on tour.

Their two sons, Rick, 10, and Loren, 6, are making their first tour with their parents. Their hometown principal said his reasons for allowing the boys to make the tour was because it would be educational to them.

At home in Memphis the family concentrates their time on their hobby—remodeling their home.

Bette has not restricted herself to just singing.

When she was attending a revival in Frankfort, Ky., she noticed a small group of deaf in the balcony of the church.

AIDS DEAF

At the end of the service, she dedicated herself to learn the method of communication used by the deaf. After many hours of study she now sings some of

the music, coordinated in sign language. Through these efforts she has been able to communicate music to persons who may never have been able to understand the great sacred works.

Edward, who is president of Master Television Productions, said he has hopes Ft. Lauderdale will sustain or sponsor the new television series which is now syndicated and programmed in several southern markets.

Edward and Bette met while studying at LSU in Baton Rouge

where Bette earned her music degree.

The program at Bibletown will consist of duets by Edward and Bette and then Bette will conclude the second part of the program with solos.

Accompanying the Stalneckers will be David Tyson and Jim Vinson, both from the Memphis headquarters.

Bette's latest recording effort is "Each Step I Take," with the Jourdainaires, which will be on the market soon.



At First Congregational Church

Rhythmic Choir Puts Color

Youth For Christ Will Stage Rally

The Broward County Youth for Christ will stage a rally at 7:30 p.m. today at the Northeast High School auditorium. The rally is

Daytona Beach Morning Journal
Sat, Jan 22, 1972 - Page 8

Flomich Ave. Baptist

Bette and Ed Stalnecker of Lake Charles, La. will appear in a "Strength for Living" crusade at Flomich Avenue Baptist Church Sunday through Saturday, Jan. 29. Services will begin at 7:30 every night.

The Stalneckers are natives of Tennessee and Louisiana and met at Louisiana State University, where they received degrees in music. Mrs. Stalnecker is a contralto and also presents her songs in sign language for the deaf.

She has produced 15 albums of sacred music, accompanied by the Jordanaires, the Scott Douglas Orchestra and the London Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dick Anthony.

Mrs. Stalnecker was a winner in the Metropolitan Opera Audition of the Air and was offered a contract with the Metropolitan Opera which she turned down. She was also a guest soloist in the annual London Emmanuel Choir Concerts in Central Hall, Westminster.

The Stalneckers were featured at the New York World's Fair in 1964, where they presented sacred music daily. She also has been featured at Bibletown, USA and was guest soloist at the Billy Graham Crusade in Tokyo.

Bob and Suzanne Matthews accompany them at the organ and piano.



ED STALNECKER
... to lead crusade.



BETTE STALNECKER
... interprets.

First Baptist Church plans 'Strength for living crusade'

Pasco Times Bureau

NEW PORT RICHEY — A "Strength for living crusade" featuring the Stalnecker family is scheduled at the First Baptist Church, 217 Circle Blvd., at 7 p.m. nightly Sunday through Friday.

The Stalneckers have been serving Southern Baptist Churches for 28 years and have presented more than 300 concerts throughout the United States.

The team consists of nine members, parents Ed and Bette Stalnecker, Chip and Carlene Stalnecker, Rick and Lynne Stalnecker and daughter Laura Lynne and David Beemer and Ronnie Hyde.

Their services consist of puppet shows for children, a pizza party for young people, concerts for youth and adults and seminars for women.

Bette Stalnecker sings and interprets in sign language for the deaf at the revival services.

The crusade will begin with a service at 11 a.m. Sun-

day, a revival service at 7 p.m. and youth fellowship at 8 p.m.

A revival service is scheduled at 7 p.m. Monday, a women's seminar at 10 a.m. Tuesday and a revival at 7 p.m. A sacred music concert is planned at 7 p.m. Wednesday, a pizza smash for youth in grades 7 through 12 at 5:45 p.m. Thursday and a revival at 7 p.m.

A banana split party and puppet show are planned at 5:45 p.m. Friday for children in grades one through six with a revival at 7 p.m.

The public is invited.

Bible lecture scheduled at Community Church Sunday

Pasco Times Bureau

PORT RICHEY — Bible prophecy, a free Bible lecture, will be conducted by Pastor Ron Lohr of the Worldwide Church of God at the Port Richey Community Church, Clark Street, at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Lohr will discuss the chances of modern America to survive in the 1980s.

The public is invited.

A film, 'The Hiding Place,' to be shown at Church of the Nazarene

Pasco Times Bureau

NEW PORT RICHEY — The true-life story of Corrie ten Boom, a former Nazi prisoner, will be presented in a motion picture *The Hiding Place* at 7 p.m. Friday at the First Church of the Nazarene, 606 Avery Road.

This is a story of tragedy and victory when the ten Boom family became involved in the Dutch underground during the German occupation in World War II.

The program will begin at 6:15 with singing. Seating space is limited to 400. A free-will offering will be accepted.



Jacksonville Journal
Sat, Mar 08, 1975 · Page 10



STRENGTH FOR LIVING

CRUSADE WITH **The Stalneckers**



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INSTRUMENTALISTS
with
Rick, Lynn, & Chip Stalnecker
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