



# Then & Now

Vol. 7

A monthly update for Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors and friends

No. 7

**August 2008**



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Dear Board Members and Friends of FBHS,

There are times that any organization needs to just stop and say thank you to some very special people for their particular thoughtfulness and kindness.

Jeff Pike thank you. Jeff serves in Huntsville, Alabama but was aware of our desire to acquire some Angel Martinez audio tapes. Angel Martinez (1922-1995) held more church revival meetings than any other Southern Baptist who ever lived. He preached in nine revival meetings at FBC Jacksonville, five at FBC Dallas and five at Belleview. Angel and his brother Homer are in the SBC Evangelists Hall of Fame. We are fortunate to have these sermon tapes of an evangelist who preached in scores of churches in Florida.

Dr. Bill Gray thank you. Dr. Bill Gray is the son of Rufus Gray (1915-1942) our Florida Southern Baptist missionary who was killed by the Japanese by waterboarding in an internment camp in World War II. Dr. Bill Gray is a psychiatrist and has a residence in Asheville, NC. Dr. Gray donated hundreds of items to the Florida Baptist Historical Society that related to the life and ministry of Rufus Gray.

Virginia Love thank you. Virginia is the daughter of William Cowherd and Marian Peeler Gray Cowherd. Marian was the wife of Rufus Gray and mother of Bill Gray. After WWII Marian married Charles Cowherd and Virginia was born of this marriage. Virginia is a practicing attorney in Chattanooga, Tennessee and has donated hundreds of letters and many pictures and artifacts from the service life of her mother Marian Peeler Gray Cowherd.

Carolyn Melton thank you. Carolyn has served faithfully as the chair of our Florida Baptist Historical Society Board and in August brought us dozens of Convention Press and other books.

Alibi thank you. Members of the Archivists, Librarians in Baptist Institutions organization have given us much technical advice and common sense suggestions.

First Baptist Church, MacClenny thank you. Thanks to First Baptist Church MacClenny for sending us hundreds of books and many Convention Press and early Baptist sources.

Bruce Lloyd thank you. Bruce Lloyd of St. Andrew Baptist Church, Northwest Coast Association donated many Convention Press books. Bruce Lloyd has also become a lifetime member of the Florida Baptist Historical Society.

Ted Traylor thank you. Thanks to Ted Traylor for taking the time to share in a video interview. This is another medium that we use to document Baptist history and events.

George Carson thank you. George sent us a DVD copy of the history of Concord Baptist Church of Greenville, Florida.

Dr. Vicki Helms thank you. We want to thank Dr. Vicki Helms of Columbus, Georgia and her family in Brunswick, Georgia for donating to us over fifty volumes of Georgia Baptist Annuals. These annuals were used by her father, Henry K. Neal, when he served as Evangelism Director of the Georgia Baptist Convention. We save state convention annuals from Georgia, Florida, and Alabama only so these greatly enrich our holdings.

Florida Baptist churches thank you. We would like to thank all the Florida Baptist churches who have taken the time to send us their church histories. Church histories are an important part of our collection here at the Florida Baptist Historical Society. We now have over 300 Florida Baptist church histories, including brief histories and books in our collection. Hundreds more are needed.

We are not in our work alone. Florida Baptists thank you for your giving through the Co-operative Program that sustains our budget and our ministry.

Honoring those who honor Christ,



Jerry M. Windsor  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Matthew 6:33



Dr. William Gray, son of Rufus & Marian Peeler Gray, and Dr. Jerry M. Windsor. Taken at Bill Gray's home in Asheville, NC. 10/24/2007



Association of Librarians at Baptist Institutions-known as ALIBI- meeting at Mercer University, Macon, GA 5/21/2008



Angel Martinez 1922-1995  
Over 500,000 people prayed to receive Christ in Angel Martinez church led revivals.