

# Here & Now

Vol. 5

An update for Florida Baptist Historical Society Board of Directors and friends

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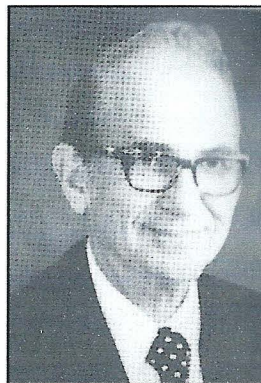
Dear Board Members and Friends of the Florida Baptist Historical Society,  
Church history takes some interesting turns.

In 1971, Professor Lynn Bartlow was in Ashburn, Georgia, tuning a piano. Professor Bartlow was one of the most remarkable men to serve on the Baptist Bible Institute faculty. He was disabled but not unable. As a child he contracted polio but mastered the violin, piano and choral arranging ministries to the extent that he was highly revered in academic, professional and congregational service.



Lynn Bartlow

His 1971 visit to Ashburn was a part of his "extra income" efforts in providing for his wonderful family. In the 1980's I had the privilege of serving as Professor Bartlow's pastor. He and Edith were committed Christians and Sunday School teachers at First Baptist Church, Graceville. Their children Bob, Carolyn and Lois have proven to be wonderful citizens and chips off the block.



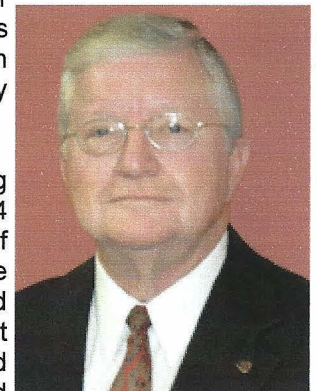
James Southerland

In one of the homes in Ashburn, where Bro. Bartlow tuned a piano, the lady of the house told him that her father had written hundreds of hymns and one of them was "Where We'll Never Grow Old." She and Lynn sang the song together and nothing more was said of it for about five years.

In 1975, the lady, Lillian Moore Ray, then living in Virginia Beach, Virginia, wrote to Baptist Bible Institute and offered her research conclusions on the ministry of her father. She and Dr. James Southerland, President of Baptist Bible Institute (1957-1977), got into correspondence with one another and more research ensued.

In 1994, Lillian Moore Ray compiled "The Hymns and Songs of James C. Moore, Sr." Mrs. Ray stayed in touch with the college and more research was done on the life of her Baptist minister father James C. Moore, Sr. (1888-1962). Dr. Thomas Kinchen became President of the college in 1990, and again research and correspondence was saved and more detailed work was done by the Florida Baptist Historical Society.

James C. Moore, Sr. was born May 2, 1888, in Drakeston, Paulding County, Georgia. He attended Drakeston Baptist Institute and in 1914 was a student at Mercer University. He later attended the University of Florida and served as a Baptist preacher all of his life. In Georgia he served at Funstron, Alma, Moultrie, Glenwood, Willacoochee and Abbeville. In Florida he served at Hawthorne and Bristol. Some say that Moore wrote over 500 songs and his daughter collected the works and music to 264 of them in her anthology of her fathers work. Moore died on June 1, 1962 at Ashburn, Georgia.



Thomas Kinchen



James C. Moore, Sr.

Moore wrote "Thou O Christ of Calvary," and this hymn is published in the 1956 *Baptist Hymnal* of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

However, it was "Where We'll Never Grow Old," that has received the widest acceptance. The hymn has been published in dozens of books and recorded by scores of individuals. The three stanza hymn is based on Revelation 21:4, and has been used in funerals all over the southeast for 100 years. A copy of the original hymn is in the possession of the Florida Baptist Historical Society and Moore wrote at the top of the page "Effectonately inscribed to my father and mother," April 22, 1914.

On June 6, 1994, Hovie Lister, of the original Statesman Quartet, told the story of how James Moore and the Speer family had sung this hymn together in his church in Atlanta, Georgia. Bill Gaither found the original 16mm film of the event and included the Moore/Speer family song in one of his Homecoming video presentations. In the interview with Gaither, Hovie Lister stated that the "Never Grow Old" segment was "the closest thing to heaven he'd ever been around."

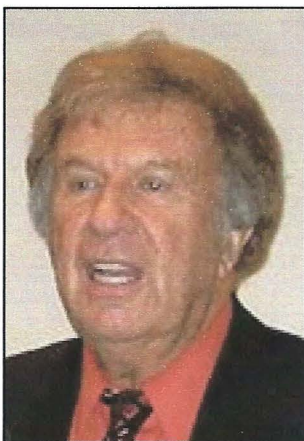
Bill Gaither wrote Lillian Moore Ray on November 3, 1994, and told her they were going to include "Where We'll Never Grow Old" in his 1995 Homecoming video spring release. I personally have a copy of this and the two Speer family daughters and son Ben are openly touched by the recall of the Moore/Speer occasion.

Christian church history is a disciplined study. But it is also touching and personal.

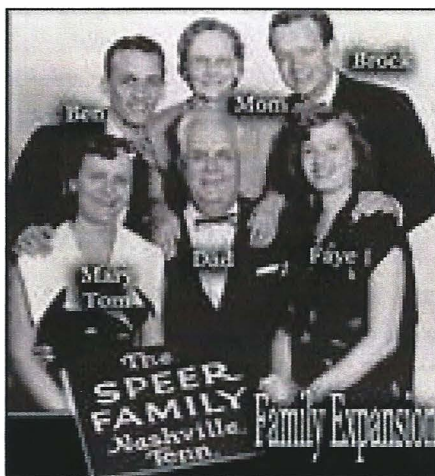
Honoring those who honor Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Windsor".

Jerry M. Windsor  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Matthew 6:33



Bill Gaither



Speer Family



Hovie Lister