

*The Journal of  
Florida Baptist Heritage  
Volume 18, 2016*



**Published by the  
FLORIDA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Florida Baptist Heritage  
Journal of the Florida Baptist Historical Society



**Cover: Rufus and Marian Gray**  
**Back Cover: Fern Harrington Miles drawing**

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# INTRODUCTION

***Jerry Windsor***  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Florida Baptist Historical Society*



## **Welcome to the Eighteenth Issue of The Journal of Florida Baptist Heritage.**

It all started with a phone call, continued with two visits and developed into lifetime appreciation and friendship.

The long distance phone call was from Tennessee. The lady said she found us online when she was looking for information on her mother who served as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary in World War II and afterward. The lady asked if I had time to hear a story. I said yes and forty-five minutes later the heart story of this journal was shared.

Rufus Gray and Marian Peeler attended school at Furman University, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. They were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries to China in 1940 and ended up in a Japanese Internment Camp. Rufus died in 1942 after being tortured by the Japanese and Marian and her son Billy survived 37 months under Japanese internment. After the war Marian married again and daughters Mary Catherine, Virginia and Eugenia were born of this marriage.

This volume begins with the wedding of Rufus and Marian on May 10, 1939. It traces 1,000 days in the life of Rufus and the aftermath of Marian and Billy in Japanese internment. Personal reports and assessments conclude this story of love, courage and commitment.

Out of love, appreciation and respect for Rufus, Marian, Billy and Virginia this journal is dedicated to them.

June 7, 1939

Dearest Mother,

Thank you so much for the lovely pillow cases and for your sweet letter to us. Please forgive me for not writing you sooner about them. I've been thinking everyday that we would receive the newspaper accounts of the wedding which were in the Greenville and Tampa papers so that I could send them on to you when I wrote but so far we haven't received them. I thought, therefore, that I would go ahead and write anyway and give a description of the wedding myself. (There wasn't an account in the Louisville paper-just a short announcement).

First, let me explain why Olga didn't receive a wedding invitation for I imagine you've wondered too why she didn't receive one. When we decided at the last minute to be married on May 10th there wasn't time to send out printed invitations so Rufus and I decided to write a few short informal notes to relatives and friends. I should have written both mine and his but I had to make a trip to S.C. because we have a rule at school that you can't be married in Louisville until you return home, so Rufus said that he would write his. Just before I left for S.C. Rufus gave me part of his list as he was working and was afraid he couldn't get all of them written. I wrote the ones whose names he gave me but he was so busy he didn't get his notes written, so that's how it happened that some received notes and others didn't. I do hope Olga will forgive us for she certainly wasn't intentionally left out. I'm writing her to beg forgiveness and to thank her for the beautiful little guest towel which she sent to us.

The wedding was at 5:00 o'clock on the afternoon of the 10th. Dr. W.O. Carver, Professor of Missions at the seminary, performed the ceremony. (Dr. Carver was my major professor at school and this next year I'm to be his assistant in the Missions Department at the Training School). Dr. E.A. McDowell, Prof. of Greek at the Seminary, gave me away since none of my folks could be present. Mrs. Helen Burton Herndon sang "I Love You Truly"



and "Because." She was accompanied by Miss Marjorie Sutterlin. Rufus' best man was Rev. Dale Moody, a Seminary student from Texas. I wore a white dress and veil and carried a bouquet of Lilies of the Valleys and Gardenias. Following the ceremony, Mrs. A.T. Robertson served punch, cake and mints to the forty guests who were present. After the informal reception I changed to my "going away dress" (quotes because we didn't go away) which was a two-piece dusty pink crepe suit with dark brown accessories.

Concerning myself-my parents, as you know I think, are Mr. & Mrs. Robert Edgar Peeler of Tampa. I graduated from Hillsborough High School, Tampa; Furman Univ., Greenville, S.C. in 1937, receiving an A.B. degree, and from the Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Training School, Louisville, Ky. on May 1st of this year, receiving a Masters degree in Religious Education.

The wedding was here at Mrs. A.T. Robertson's where we are now living. Mrs. Robertson is the widow of the late Dr. A.T. Robertson, Greek and New Testament Prof. at the Seminary, and is the daughter of the well-known Dr. John A. Broadus, one of the early Presidents of the Seminary.

Rufus and I both are very happy and we hope that both of us will be used wherever and in whatever work the Master calls us. We hope that you will always continue to pray that God will lead us both in everything we undertake to do.

We are looking forward to our visit in September but in the meantime if you have an opportunity and can leave there we would be so happy to have you come visit us. We would enjoy being with you and taking you to see the Seminary, Training School, and the many interesting places in Louisville and surrounding vicinity.

I think Rufus told you about changing his work when he wrote you a card this morning. I surely am glad for he's been going to work at 5:00 o'clock every morning and not getting off until around 3:30 or 4:30 or sometimes even later and he's always so tired he goes right to sleep as soon as supper is over and sometimes even before. Now he will not have to go to work until around 9:00 and he will always get off by 6:00. I've been wanting to find an

office job so I could help him pay for the car but so far I haven't. I hope I will soon though.

Thank you again for the beautiful pillow cases. We will enjoy using them more than any others because they are from you.

My best love,

Marian

Florida Baptist Historical Society, Rufus F. Gray collection. Volume II, pages 124-129. Hereafter FBHS, RFG, volume number and pages

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November 2, 1939

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Gray

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Gray:

Dr. Rankin has returned to Richmond after his visit to Louisville and has told us of his interview with you. We are glad to have your names on our list of future prospects.

I am enclosing a preliminary information blank, and would suggest that you fill this out and return it to us together with a photograph of yourself, in order that we may get all of the facts necessary and have them ready when the time comes for our Board to send out other missionaries.

In the meantime, if there is any further information you wish, please do not hesitate to call on us. Dr. Maddry, Dr. Jones, and myself will probably be in Louisville sometime between now and the end of the session, and if we are, we will be very glad of the opportunity of meeting you in person.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

JRF/G

Enc.

Southern Baptist Convention, International Mission Board,  
hereafter SBC IMB and pages; FBHS, RFG, V, p. 10.

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March 18, 1940  
Rev. and Mrs. Rufus Gray  
220 Rice Hall  
Baptist Seminary  
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Friends,

I am glad to tell you that the Board on yesterday approved the bringing to Richmond of twenty-six applicants for appointment at the April meeting, and you were included in that number.

I am enclosing a check for \$75.00 to cover your expenses to Richmond. You will please keep an account of this and we will make the necessary adjustments regarding your return expenses after you get to Richmond. Do not buy a round trip ticket for Mrs. Gray as she will be able to get a return ticket at the clergy rate after she is appointed.

We should like for you to reach Richmond not later than the morning of the fifth. You may take a taxi at the station and go directly to the Tucker Sanatorium, 212 West Franklin Street.

The Appointment Committee will meet at eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning the ninth of April. The Board meeting will begin at nine-thirty the next day. We should like for you [to] bring with you a brief sketch of your life of not more than 300 words, which you will please give me after you reach Richmond.

Looking forward with the greatest joy to seeing you in April, and with every good wish, I am  
Sincerely yours,

JRF:G  
Enc.

FBHS, RFG, V, p. 34.

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May 22, 1940  
Rev. Rufus F. Gray  
Box 195,  
Gaffney, South Carolina.

Dear Mr. Gray,

I am glad to know that the sailing date I mentioned suits you. However, we have changed the ship. We have been able to secure some space on two American ships sailing in August and we are, therefore, changing you and Mrs. Gray to the S. S. PRESIDENT CLEVELAND sailing from San Francisco on August 23rd. I am sure that this will suit you as the date is the same.

Rev. and Mrs. A. R. Gallimore, our missionaries in South China, are to be on this boat and I know that you will enjoy being with them.

I shall look forward to seeing you and Mrs. Gray in Baltimore.

Sincerely yours,  
Gene Newton

P. S. I am asking Mr. Buxton to handle the part of your letter regarding the insurance.

SBC, IMB, p. 1

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

In reply refer to  
130-Gray, Rufus Franklin  
June 5, 1940

Mr. Rufus F. Gray,  
Box 834,  
Fort Pierce, Florida.

My dear Mr. Gray:

The Department has received your recent application for a passport and has noted that you desire to proceed to Chefoo, China, as a missionary.

Because of the disturbed situation in the Far East which makes travel in portions of that region unsafe and which has made it necessary for a considerable number of our citizens to leave certain areas where there is special danger, the Department is, in General, for the time being not issuing passports valid for travel to and in China.

If you are to proceed to China as a representative of some organization, it will be necessary for you to submit to the Department a statement from such organization concerning the necessity of your proceeding to China in its interest at this time.

Sincerely yours,

R. B. Shipley,

Chief, Passport Division

USA Department of State, FBHS, RFG, V, pp. 44-45.

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Rufus Franklin Gray

PO Box 834

Fort Pierce, Florida

August 12, 1940

Dear Gene:

Received your letter early this morning when I returned from preaching for Dr. Ira Knight in West Palm Beach. I want to thank you for answering my letter so soon because it will make it possible for me to remain home for two more weeks.

I want to thank you for the check of \$250 which I also received, and we will give Dr. Williams a complete report of our expenses.

As far as I can tell now, we will not leave Fort Pierce until August 26 which will [give] us plenty of time to reach our port of departure. So until that time you can reach us here.

Sincerely yours,  
Rufus Gray

SBC, IMB, p. 4

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AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

New York-California-Orient-Round the World on board  
September 20, 1940

Dearest Gene,

Thank you so much for your several letters and for the many things which you did for us in helping us leave. We appreciate everything more than words can express. Without your help we would never have gotten everything done.

So far we have had a most delightful trip. Especially have we enjoyed the fellowship with the fifty other missionaries of all denominations.

In the morning we dock in Yokohama and Sunday we reach Kobe where we hope to find some news about a boat to Peking.

We shall certainly give everyone your greetings in North China when we arrive there. The Pruitts and Gastons also are sending greetings by us so we are looking forward to delivering them all.

Our trip has given us much time for reading and meditation and we are happier than ever because we are going to China. We are praying that the Lord shall use us to help bring His Kingdom in there and that we shall be made a blessing to the people at Chefoo for His sake.

Each day we remember you all there in Richmond in our prayers. May God bless each one of you in the great and important work which you are doing and may He direct in everything. We are so happy that we are sent out under the Board there. Our contacts with some of the other missionaries make us indeed grateful that we are under the Southern Baptist Board and we are glad to try to live up to its high standards. We have been indeed

sorry to see some of the missionaries of other denominations who have been smoking, dancing and playing bridge on the way across. Their conduct has made us resolve to seek always to live above reproach.

Do you think we shall be sent The Commission? I hope so for it has meant very much to us.

Please give the enclosed letter to Mr. Buxton.

With love,

Marian Gray (Mrs. R. F.)

SBC, IMB pp. 5-7.

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October 10, 1940

Mrs. R. F. Gray

College of Chinese Studies

Peking, China

Dear Marian:

I certainly was glad to get your letter written on September 20th just before you got to Yokohama. I am glad that you had such a delightful trip and that you were able to meet missionaries from other denominations. I suppose you will be seeing a number of these in Peking studying the language.

We are quite upset now about the sudden turn of events in the Orient and are concerned about what each one of our missionaries will be doing. We had a cablegram from Dr. Rankin today saying that he was stopping Mrs. Rankin and Miss Plowden in Honolulu. The Belotes are due to sail next week but we are asking them to wait. It is hard on old missionaries to go through these trying times, but I think it is especially hard on those who have just been appointed to go out in the face of such uncertainties.

Yes, you will be sent THE COMMISSION. I hope that it will reach you safely. I am passing on the letter from Mr. Gray to Mr. Buxton and he will be glad to take care of the requests made in it.

The Board meets next week and it will seem strange not to

have a large group of missionaries here for appointment, but since there were so many appointed in the spring and conditions are so uncertain, there will not be a single appointment in October.

I hope that you and Mr. Gray will enjoy this year in Peking.

We are thinking about all of you in China at this time and pray that you may be kept in safety.

With love,

Gene Newton

Secretary to Dr. Maddry

SBC, IMB, p. 8

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College of Chinese Studies

Peking, China

October 19, 1940

My Dearest Mother:

Another week has pasted so I am writing you a letter to tell you all the news. However, it will be history by the time that it reaches you in America. Last week I sent you several pictures of Peking and a letter with a code for sending telegrams. As soon as you receive the letter I will send you a cable gram every now in then to let you know how we are getting along.

Also, I am going to number my letters to you so you can tell if you receive them all. It would be a very good thing if you would do the same as all your mail will go through Japanese hands to be censored.

Enclosed is a circular letter sent out by our mission in Chefoo which I know that you will enjoy reading to see what it is like. Mrs. Moore wrote us several letters asking us to come by the station to see them but when we got to Dairen things were so unsettled that we thought it would be best for us to go on to Peking so we could settle down.

The study of the Chinese language is very interesting in every way. For the first week all we could do was sit and listen to



the teachers speak Chinese, but this week we were allowed to repeat after them the Chinese. None of our teachers speak English so it is very hard for them to make us understand sometimes. However, we seem to be catching on very fast as we have had over 100 characters.

Wednesday while I was uptown at the bank someone stole my bicycle but it only cost me about US \$8. I have learned that the people will steal anything.

We are having some cold weather that has given Marian a bad cold but she is about to get over it. The College has not turned on the heat because coal is so very high, so we are doing like the Chinese, putting on more clothes. For the first time in my life I am wearing red flannel underwear.

I just received an airmail letter from Shanghai that my 5 trunks and mattress were shipped today and will be in Tientsin, Wednesday of this week, so I am going down there after them on Thursday.

I don't know how the newspapers have played up the oriental situation but so far we have found everything extra nice. The only thing I miss is ice cream & candy and since these are not good for me I don't miss them very much. Our meals at the College are very nice, in fact they are just like those in America in many ways. We have breakfast at 7:30 to 8:30 where they serve fruit, cereal, eggs any style. Marian and I also share a quart of milk a piece a day. Dinner 12:15-1:15 which is just like those in America. Meat-2 veg.-salad, dessert. Tea 4-4:30 Chinese or America tea & cake. Supper- meat-2 veg, salad, dessert, fruit. So you can see that we are not underfed.

There are only a few cars in the Orient because the roads are bad and gas is high but in some of the large cities we find quite a good number.

By the way, I haven't received any mail from you since I left home maybe there will be some for me in the very near future. I am sending all my letters airmail as I know you are anxious to hear from me. In your next letter send me the date of my letters when mailed & when received so I can estimate about how long it

takes a letter to go through.

Don't forget to keep all the pictures I am sending so I can use them when I get home. Here in Peking everything is quite different from Shanghai so I don't feel that we should worry a great deal about the situation. We are not going to leave unless there is a possible conflict between the two nations which would cause all the American citizens to be interned. In any event we will be here for some time yet; unless the situation grows much worse between the two nations.

The Japanese do not harm our work or interfere except in some sections such as Shansi in the interior. There they have run out all the British but the Americans are still there. In Manchuria the missionaries are feeling the pressure of the Japanese and will have to leave soon if something doesn't happen.

We have six very good tennis courts so I have been playing about 4 times a week during the last three weeks. Also we enjoy riding our bicycles around to the various points of interest. Peking is truly a wonderful place when it comes to places to go. There are several shows in English and one could spend hours visiting the various shops in the city.

Marian has been to see the jade shops, laquo lantorect. I could just stand on a street and watch the people go by.

In many ways it seems like Bible times. The people carry their water from the well. They thresh the grain by hand and winnow by tossing it in the air. The donkey & ass are beast of burden besides the use of men to carry things. To me it is most interesting and I love it all.

I just hope that we get to stay for if we leave we will never get to come back as the board will send the old missionaries first as they know the language.

Please don't worry about us as we are not going to take any chances. We all must have faith more faith for God is with us and he will take care of us all.

I want to tell that the Board has been sending us our full checks so it might be sometime before you will hear from them so in the meantime do[n't] worry about it. If you should have to have

a little money you can get it from the bank.  
Must stop so I can get this mailed  
Love to all  
Rufus & Marian

FBHS, RFG, II, pp. 210-215.

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College of Chinese Studies  
Peking, China  
November 4, 1940

Dear Charlie, Mattie and June,

For some time now I have been wanting to write you so you could let all my friends know that we have arrived in China safely. On Sept. 6, 1940 we sailed from San Francisco, California on the S.S. President Cleveland and arrived in Japan on Sept. 21 where Ox Quick met us at the boat and showed us around Tokyo for a few hours while we were waiting for the boat to unload some freight. The next day we disembarked at Kobe where we spent three days sightseeing around the city.

Finally after a very wonderful trip we reached Peking on Sept. 29, 1940. Since that time we have been sightseeing and studying the language. We are enjoying our work under Chinese teachers a great deal even though they cannot speak any English.

Among the points of interest have been the Altar of Heaven where Emperors of China have gone for thousands of years to pray to an unknown God for the sins of their people. To me it is Holy ground for only the Emperors were allowed upon it.

The Forbidden city or Imperial city is surrounde[d] by a wall that is 40 ft. high and 24 ft. thick at the top. Inside the enclosure there is a court where all the people connected with the Government lived. There is a smaller wall which is around the Throne room and court of the Emperors. It is very interesting to see the beautiful Chinese buildings.

The Summer Palace in one of the most beautiful spots in China, Peking. It is located about 5 miles from the city on a large

island in the middle of an artificial lake. The Empress Dowage took the money given to build a Navy to construct herself a playground. She has a large Marble boat on which she had tea in the hot summer that is called the Ship of the Chinese navy. It is very beautiful but useless.

The Loma Temple is the most interesting and the saddest. It contains five large idols to Buddah, the longest being 70 ft. tall made from a single tree. It breaks ones' heart to see the people come and Worship at these Heathen places. In Japan we went to visit one Temple of a thousand Gods. These places are interesting but they make you go away feeling so depressed. Well there are so many interesting things to write about but I will save them until later.

Please remember me to our Friends and especially to your Church. I am sending this now in hopes that it will reach you by Christmas. Marian wish[es] you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

We think of you folks often especially in our prayers and we want you and your Church to pray for us and the other Missionaries in China. We have just heard that our board is sending home 60 women and children. If it is his will that we leave we will have to go but I think God wants us to stay in China or he wouldn't have sent us out here, so we are here to stay through thick and thin. Pray for us, Love Rufus and Marian

SBC, IMB, p. 8.1

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FOREIGN MISSION BOARD  
OF THE  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
HOME, OFFICE, RICHMOND, VA.

HEADQUARTERS FOR THE ORIENT  
209 YUEN MING YUEN ROAD  
SHANGHAI, CHINA  
January 21, 1941

Dr. C. E. Maddry,  
Richmond, Va.  
S. A.

Dear Dr. Maddry:

By the next mail I hope Dr. Williams and I will be ready to give you a list of items in the appropriations -----, 1941 which you can call on in America to help take care of the rental and other expenses connected with the people from Orient who have returned to America.

I notice in the appropriations for South China that 500.00 was included for the Stout Memorial Hospital. Buxton will remember that this appropriation for 1940 returned to the Foreign Mission Board because Women's Missionary Union provided \$3,000.00 for the Hospital at Wuchow. I left a recommendation that the Board's appropriation not be made for 1941. I notice in the letter of ---dit for the first quarter of this year one-fourth of ---s amount was deposited in Dallas, Texas to the credit ---- the Hospital. By the time this letter reaches you, you will know what provision the Lottie Moon Offering has made for the Wuchow Hospital. If it is the same as for 1940, the Board's appropriation will not be needed.

I feel certain that we can get \$1,000.00 from the appropriation of \$2,000.00 made for the Kweilin Hospital left a recommendation about this matter also, suggesting that the appropriation be \$1,000.00 instead of \$2,000.00. Mewshaw suggested the reduction since they are carrying only a small clinic in Kweilin at the present. We have ----ified the Kweilin Hospital of only \$1,000.00.

Practically all of the school funds for the various missions will be available for use in America, since most of the children of our missionaries are now at home. We will look over all of the appropriations carefully and let you have a complete list of the amounts that will be available.

I think one of the most important things before the Board

is to do everything possible to take care of our missionary staff. It would be so easy for those who have gone home to feel that they must secure work to relieve the Board of their support. In most cases our most useful missionaries will be those who can secure employment, and that will be a first step toward losing them. I know the Board is going to be pressed for funds, but I had rather see large amounts of money that we would have used for rehabilitation of buildings put into taking care of our missionary staff. When this war is over and we are ready to rehabilitate our work, our staff of experienced missionaries will be worth far more to us than any amount of buildings in all of China. We would be thinking in terms of \$50,000.00 and \$55,000.00 for rehabilitation of buildings. I believe it would be worth far more if Women's Missionary Union and others who would have helped with the rehabilitation of buildings will get under the necessity of taking care of our missionary staff during this emergency. If there are those who can relieve the Board of some of the expenses without endangering their future work as missionaries, it will, of course, help the Board for them to do so. But in most cases, those who secure their own support will be headed toward remaining in America.

We will do everything we can from out here to help take care of these people. I hope that you are going to get help from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering also.

I am in correspondence with our younger missionaries in Japan with reference to their transfer to China. I anticipate that by the first of February it will be necessary for me to make another trip to Japan to discuss this matter with them. Our young people here in China are still getting along nicely. The Principal of the Language College in Peking is now in Shanghai, and I am to see him this afternoon to talk with him about the situation in Peking. Thus far, it seems that our group will continue in the College of Peking. Quite a number of the new missionaries of other groups have been moved to the Philippine Islands. The Peking Language College has set up a branch in Bag[u]io. As I see the matter now, we will keep our people in Peking for the present at least. The Wards are

continuing on the Island of Hong Kong. All of these young people are showing a fine spirit and are prepared to stay right on as long as any other people are able to stay in China.

With kindest personal regards to you, I am,

Cordially yours,

M. T. Rankin

MTR:EW

SBC, IMB, pp. 9-10.

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FOREIGN MISSION BOARD  
OF THE  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
HOME OFFICE, RICHMOND, VA.

HEADQUARTERS FOR THE ORIENT  
209 YUEN MING YUEN ROAD  
SHANGHAI, CHINA

February 22, 1941

Dr. Charles E. Maddry  
Foreign Mission Board  
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Dr. Maddry:

I am having great difficulty in determining just what to do with our new missionaries. I had hoped to be able to send those in Japan up to Peking for study of Mandarin, with the exception of Oz Quick whom we are able to get to Kweilin by airplane. The situation in Peking has become such that it seems likely that we shall have to move the eight people we have there. I am leaving Monday morning by airplane for Peking for conference with this group and in all probability I will arrange for them to go to the Philippine Islands. A language school has already been set up at

Baguio and about half of the students from Peking have already gone down there. The American Embassy in Peking is putting heavy pressure on those who are still in Peking to leave and the local political situation is becoming more and more tense. To say the least, the circumstances which are thus produced are not at all conducive to effective study of the language.

I am most reluctant to send these people to the Philippines, but I see nothing else to do short of sending them to America; and I am determined not to do that as long as there is any reason for keeping them out here somewhere so that they can study the language. I [would] consider sending them to their various stations, but because of the position of our American Consuls with reference to American women going to interior places in China, it is almost impossible to secure the necessary passes for any of these people to go to interior stations. The Peking language school has sent eight of their best teachers to the Philippines and will transfer to the Philippines the exact type of language work as they have been doing in Peking.

SBC, IMB, p. 11.

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March 26, 1941

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Peeler  
1305 Palafox Avenue  
Tampa, Florida

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Peeler:

This morning we received a cable from Dr. M. T. Rankin in which he said the new missionaries at Peking sailed for Manila on the twenty-fifth. Your daughter and son-in-law are among that group.

It is our understanding from the information we have at hand that the Language School is being moved to the Philippine Islands. We suggest, therefore, that you write Mr. and Mrs. Gray in care of the College of Chinese Studies, Baguio, Philippine Islands.



We shall keep you posted from time to time as additional information comes to us.  
Sincerely yours,

SBC, IMB, p. 12.

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Aboard the “Yawata Maru” on the way to the Philippines.  
March 27, 1941.

Mrs. C.F. Gray  
Box 834  
Ft. Pierce, Fla.

Dearest Mother, Daddy and All,

Just a few days ago we mailed you a long letter telling you of our final decision to transfer from the language school in Peking to the new language sch. which has been opened at Baguio in the Philippines and of our lovely trip across north China on the train and of our wonderful visit to several mission stations in Shantung Province, (including Chefoo our future station which is a lovely place right on the sea) and of our trip on to Shanghai to confer with our Secretary there who decided that our whole group of 7 and a couple from Japan should all go to the Philippines and continue our studies there where we shall be safe regardless of what happens over this way because Baguio is way up in the mts. and away from any military objectives. Since you won't receive that letter for several weeks we are writing this shorter letter to send by clipper to Claudia in San Fran. whom we are asking to send on to you, along with one or two others we are writing to Tampa and Greenville and asking her to send on for us. We wanted to cable you from Shanghai but it was so very expensive we decide to wait and send this clipper letter which should reach you only about a week later than a wire.

We left Peking on March 13th and Shanghai on March 25th and are to arrive in Manila tomorrow, March 28th. Baguio is 175 miles north of Manila and we shall probably go on up there on

the 29th or the 30th. According to travel guide Baguio is “5,000 ft. above sea-level, and the climate is cool and bracing the year around. The last two hours by motor-car is up the scenic Benguet Zigzag motor road. Passengers by rail leave the train at Damortis and make this drive in comfortable buses. Strange primitive tribes, towering mts., amazing rice terraces, thundering waterfalls and giant forests all combine to make Baguio a most interesting vacation-land and health center in the Philippines.” Missionaries from China who have spent their summer vacations there say that it is certainly lovely so we are looking forward to staying there and studying until we are able to return to China when international conditions get a little better. It is the middle of the summer in the Philippines right now and will be very hot in Manila tomorrow as we are already partly experiencing today but it will be cool at Baguio. We will only be about 30 miles from the beach and are hoping to be able to go some week-ends down the mts. and enjoy the ocean once again.

This Japanese boat we are on is the largest and most beautiful we’ve ever seen. It is a floating palace and could hold around 500 but on this short run from Shanghai to pick up passengers at Manila there are only 22 passengers, of which 9 are us so if we were the King and Queen we couldn’t have a more luxurious voyage. The ship has indirect lights, velvet upholstery in the two large dining rooms, air conditioning which is feeling mighty good to us it is so warm, libraries, barber shops, a laundry, large reading rooms and parlours, a lovely swimming pool with salt water which we thoroughly enjoyed this afternoon even though we did get a little sun burned, five decks, an elevator, two gymnasiums, and just about everything one can imagine. The boat is so large and the sea so calm it is hard to realize that we are moving. We feel as though we were on a second honeymoon we are having such a wonderful time and it is hard to realize that it will be over tomorrow and that we will soon have to settle down to studying again.

There is some real good news which we’ve been wanting to write you about but thought it best to wait until we were sure of

a more settled future so you wouldn't worry (in case we were still in Peking and in danger of being put into a concentration camp if there should be war with Japan) and now that we are going to Baguio where we shall be perfectly safe regardless of what happens we can tell you knowing that you will not worry about us. It is that in September you will have a new grandchild. To us that is the most wonderful news we could possibly write for we are so very happy about it. And can scarcely wait until September. We haven't decided on any names yet and will be glad to have any suggestions from you all.

As soon as we get settled we shall try to write all of you, including Olga and Charline, long letters telling you about our new home. We hope that you will write to us too. Just send letters by regular mail as the mail service will be about the same as it was in Peking. All of your letters so far which will arrive in Peking after we left will be forwarded on to us but after this write us: School of Chinese Studies, P.O. Box 131, Baguio, Mountain Province, P.I.

Much love to all,  
Marian & Rufus

FBHS RFG II, p.313

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School of Chinese Studies  
Box 131  
Baguio, P. I.

July 5, 1941

Dr. Chas. E. Maddry  
So. Baptist Foreign Mission Board  
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Dr. Maddry:

God has given us many varied and interesting experiences since we left America for China, which have brought many spiritual blessings and greatly developed our love for the Chinese.

Each day we are more thankful that we can have a part in the Kingdom's work in China and we deeply appreciate the Mission Board making our coming possible.

When we left China to come here to continue our language studies we were very disappointed but we have learned to realize more and more that God's ways are above our ways and that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. When we first came here we felt that our progress in the language was very slow as we missed the daily opportunities of speaking Chinese which we had in Peking but now the head of the school here, Mr. Yeh who is a fine Chinese Christian from the Peking school, his wife who also teaches, and their little girl who is eleven, live with us so we feel that we now have a far better opportunity to learn Chinese than we did in Peking as we use Chinese entirely at home as well as at school. The five of us live in a little house about a block from school and are thoroughly enjoying living together and sharing expenses, Chinese and American food, and lessons in Chinese and English. Mr. Yeh leads our morning devotionals at breakfast in Chinese and this is a real spiritual blessing as well as a help in using Chinese. Each day we are more thankful to God for giving us such rich experiences and opportunities and we are praying that we shall make the most of them and be prepared to go right to work when we are able to return to China.

While in Peking I taught a class of college boys on Sunday evenings and on the Sunday before leaving five of the boys took a definite stand for Christ as their Savior. This set my heart on fire with a new desire to tell others of Jesus and His love and has made me more anxious than ever to return to China and do active work.

Our trip to the Philippines by way of Tsingtao and Shanghai was one which we shall never forget as it gave us a real taste of rural China. While waiting for the boat in Tsingtao Brother Larson and Miss Grayson made plans to take us to Laiyang for a short visit over the weekend. We arrived in Laiyang late Saturday afternoon and were greeted by a large number of people from the village and mission compound. After supper the pastor of the church and a large number of friends came in for a visit to see Miss

Grayson and Miss Grace Wilson who was also with us and who is to be stationed there when we can return to China. The pastor invited me to fill the pulpit the next day using English with Brother Larson interpreting. This was my first sermon to the Chinese so you can well imagine my great happiness and joy. The next day Mr. Larson again opened his kind heart and offered to take us to Chefoo since we greatly longed to see the work being carried on there as that is our assigned place to work when we go back to China. Though we were able to spend only one afternoon and night in Chefoo our hearts were filled with happiness as Miss Todd introduced us to the fine Chinese workers and showed us the splendid work which is being carried on in the midst of such multitudes of people and in spite of the many difficulties arising because of the Japanese occupation. Both of us had the joy of speaking at the chapel services of the schools which also gave us an opportunity to feel the wonderful spirit of the Christians there.

Both the Laiyang and Chefoo fields are in such great need of workers that we longed to stay there and not come on to the Philippines but we realized that we must first learn the language so we returned with Mr. Larson to Tsingtao where we took the boat on to Shanghai.

During the few days we spent in Shanghai waiting for the boat to Manila we were greatly impressed by the splendid work which our mission is carrying on in the great city, and the wonderful hospitality which our missionaries bestowed upon us made us so thankful that we are of the same mission and will soon be fellow-workers with them in carrying on God's work in China.

We like it here in Baguio very much because the climate is so wonderful and because of the fellowship with the other students both of our mission and of the many other missions. On Sunday afternoons all of us Southern Baptists meet for prayer meeting at one or the other of the three places where we are living and these meetings have brought us both closer to God and to each other and have given us a feeling of unity as we work and study together as representatives of our Southern Baptist Churches at home, whose prayers and help we are conscious of each day.

August 31, 1941

Since starting this letter to you back in July we have been very busy with our language study and getting ready for the baby whom we are now expecting in a few days. All of our group are in the best of health and are enjoying our language study here in Baguio but we are continuing to pray that the time may soon come when we shall be able to return to China to tell the story of Jesus to the hungry souls who are waiting to hear His message.

We are very sorry that Miss Grace Wilson had to leave so suddenly to return to America but we are praying that she may be able to return soon and continue her language study as she ranked first of all students in her studies both in Peking and in Baguio according to Mr. Yeh who is the head teacher of our school here. The wonderful spirit in which she accepted the decision of the doctors strengthened our own faith and trust in God.

Miss Blanche Groves who is spending a few weeks in Baguio on her vacation has been a source of inspiration and joy to us all and we are thoroughly enjoying her visit and hearing of her work and many experiences in China.

A few days ago we received a very wonderful letter from Dr. Rankin which inspired us to work all the harder so we will be ready to return to our work when the way is open. We are most thankful that in the meantime we can continue our language studies here in the Philippines and we never cease to thank God and to pray for His blessing upon those who make our work possible.

With best wishes to you and to all the staff, we are  
Your fellow-workers for Christ,  
Rufus and Marian Gray

Sept. 9, 1941 The baby arrived yesterday morning, Sept. 8th and is a fine 8lb. 2oz. boy whom we have named William Gilman. We have already dedicated him to God and are praying that someday God will use him to do a great work in the missionary enterprise. SBC, IMB, pp. 13-14.

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School of Chinese Studies  
Sept. 9, 1941

Dearest Mother:

William (Billy) Gilman Gray arrived yesterday morning at 11:30 on the dot just 13½ hours after I had taken Marian to the hospital. She was in the delivery room for two and a half hours and came out with a big smile on her face. She was next to the happiest person in the whole world and we rejoiced together and gave thanks to the Lord.

It is hard to say that he looks like either one of us just yet but I think he looks more like Marian as he has her round face, short nose, dimple in chin and light brown hair but we will send you a picture in a few days to show you just who he is like.

Marian is feeling fine in every way and I guess the baby does as he sleeps all the time or has so far. I hope that he continues to be a good baby so Daddy can study. We are so proud of such a fine healthy baby as he weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz.

Marian will stay in the hospital for two weeks before coming home but I am sure that they will pass by quickly as I have lots to keep me busy-examines starting tomorrow and next week I have to paint the baby's room and get it ready for the new man of the house.

Mother, in the wooden box that I sent to you were several gifts for Marian's kin-folks in S.C. which I wish that you would send when the box arrives. You may look at all of them and I think you would be interested in several of the articles. Pack them all together and mail to Mrs. P.H. Byars-Box 175 Gaffney, S.C. and let me know the cost and I will send it to you the next time I write. All of the articles that are wrapped in tissue paper and have names on them. I think that they will be very easy to find as there are not very many.

Next week I am going to send another box by a friend returning home which you will receive in due time. I hope.

The Baptist Witness is such a joy as we receive it so much

sooner when it is sent direct Thanks for having the address changed for us.

Mother, we expect the gifts from the church in the next box and we want to thank you all for them and I know they will be simply lovely in every way. Marian, said she can hardly wait to see them.

John Hermick at the First Church of Charleston sent us a nice big box of lovely gifts from his W.M.U. It was so sweet of them as none of them knew us at all. There were several slips, dresses, a blanket, a pillow, and other nice articles that we can use for Billie.

Enclosed are several letters that you can read and pass on to the address given, if you will be so kind. Did you receive my last clipper letter sent to Mrs. Peeler two weeks ago?

We want you to express our most sincere appreciation to every one for their gifts and for their prayers and we will write the whole W.M.U. when the gifts arrive. Thank Mrs. Mims for the cards that she sends from time to time. We love to hear from her.

There will be no duty on the goods as we have already received a large number from friends here.

Marian and I are in the best of health. I weigh 146 lbs. not much but the most I have ever weighed so that is not bad at all. I will send you several pictures in a few days of us so you can see for yourself.

Send me Scott's new address and I will write him a few lines when I have time.

Give Olga our best regards and tell her we will send her a few more things just as soon as Marian comes home from the hospital. I hope that she is well and happy and got along as well as Marian.

Please give our regards to everyone. I do hope Father or should I say Grandfather is over his poison ivy.—Love to all  
Rufus & Marian

Take the money for stamps and anything besides (words illegible) about (words illegible) for yourself out of the next Mission Board check.



September 29, 1941

Rev. Rufus F. Gray  
School of Chinese Studies  
Box 131  
Baguio, Philippines

Dear Brother Gray,

Your letter dated July 5 was received on September 26. I was glad indeed to hear of the arrival of the young son. I hope the Lord will make a missionary out of him. I congratulate you and Mrs. Gray sincerely.

I am glad that you are there associated so intimately with the Chinese teacher. You ought to get a good start on the language. This war in China will be over one of these days, and then you will have a glorious opportunity to preach the gospel in China.

Please remember me to all the missionaries studying there and assure them of our prayers.

With very best wishes, I am  
Yours sincerely,

CEM:HY

SBC, IMB, p. 15.

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P.O. Box 131  
Baguio, P.I.  
November 11, 1941

Dear Charlie and All,

You will be glad to hear that we have a 10 pound baby boy that is just over two months old. He is the talk of the language School as well as our own household. We did not know [it] was so much joy to have a baby of your own, but now we are learning

fast. Billy is such a sweet little fellow and we love him dearly. He sleeps most of the time but when he is awake he has to have a lot of attention and he gets it from us or from our Chinese teachers that live with us. It is fun to watch them play with him and talk to him in Chinese.

Would sure like to hear from you so we would know where you are located. Boy but it would be fun to be with you again and talk over old times. Remember the time we spilt the paint all over the side all over the wall and the time I almost fell off the window looking at planes coming to the Kentucky Derby? Those were the good old days. Now we see lots of planes but they have other purposes in mind. We just hope and pray that the little boy scouts don't fly over and give us a few bad eggs.

Charlie, I guess June is about the size of her Mother by now and is just as cute as ever. How I wish I could see the little lady for a little while. Maybe when my Billy gets a little older and we send him to America to College he can court your little girl.

At present it is impossible to tell how much longer we will be here but it looks like it might be some time. I would like to return soon as I am anxious to start work in the great land of China. I know God has a purpose for leaving us down here so we will work hard to be ready when the time comes to return. Gen. 28:15. Moses was 40 years in the wilderness in preparation for his work, so we must also be prepared physically, mentally and Spiritually.

With a prayer for Gods richest blessings for you all, and for a Merry Christmas and a happy new Year,

Sincerely yours,  
Rufus Gray

FBHS RFG V, p.69

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P.O. Box 131  
Baguio, P.I.  
November 18, 1941

Dear Mr. Gilman:

We send you a note of greetings from the Philippines and at the same time pray that you might have a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

The Chinese Language has kept us very busy since we came to Baguio so there has not been very much to write about until the eighth of September when William (Billy) Gilman Gray arrived at our home and since then everybody has been busy. Billy has brought a great deal of joy to our home just as the one whose name he bears has done. We just hope and pray that he will be able to live up to your good name. Just an hour after he arrived we dedicated him to God and we pray that he will become a missionary to China.

Enclosed you will find a picture of our new family which we made about two weeks ago. When you find time we would like to have a picture of you to put in his baby books so he can see who was so good to his father when he is grown up. I hope this is not too much to ask of you as I know that you are very busy.

Give our best regards to Mrs. Gilman. I truly hope you don't mind us naming the baby after you. I have not written you the good news because I wanted to wait until we had a good picture to send so you could see what the little fellow looks like.

We are praying daily that we shall be able to return to China soon, as the field is ripe unto harvest. If possible I will return in January and leave Mrs. Gray and Billy here until conditions have improved in North China. Gen. 28:15

With a prayer for God's richest blessings upon you and your family and with continued appreciation for all that you have done for me, I am

Sincerely yours

Rufus Gray

FBHS RFG II, 374-376.

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School of Chinese Studies

Box 131

Baguio, P. I.

November 24, 1941

Dr. Charles Maddry  
Box 1595  
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Dr. Maddry:

Your letter of September 29th was greatly appreciated by us and by the others of our mission here. It made us want to work all the harder to be ready with the language when the doors of China are open again. Each of us has taken the promise that God gave to Jacob at Bethel and applied to our own lives. Gen. 28:15. "Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee whithersoever thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land: for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of." So even though dark shadows are falling over the doors of China we still have hope and we have placed everything in the hands of the Lord who has never failed. We went to China because we thought it was His will so if it is His will for us to wait awhile in the Philippines, then we must be patient and work hard so that we shall be ready when he calls us to work.

All of us are very thankful that Dr. Rankin is going to spend Christmas with us and we are eagerly looking forward to his visit. We are praying that nothing will keep him from coming for we are very eager to hear about the possibilities of our going in West China. I think the whole group of us would be ready to go at a moment's notice if the way opened up for the Board to send us there as we are all looking forward to the time when we can go to work. This morning at the breakfast table we were telling our Chinese teacher about what you said in your letter to Miss Harrington in regard to the possibility of going to West China and he said that what we are studying now is just what we will need to use as the Chinese leaders were eager to spread Mandarin throughout all of China. This makes us want to study all the harder, therefore, so we shall be ready to go when the time comes.

During the eight months that we have been in Baguio we

have had many opportunities to be of service to the Lord. I have preached in the Baguio Evangelical Church and have made several trips to a neighboring town. However, the greatest opportunity that I have received is an invitation to preach five evangelistic services at the annual conference of all the churches in the Northern part of the Island. I am looking forward to these services with a great deal of prayer that I might be of real spiritual blessing to the people. This conference is held just after Christmas each year and is attended by the leaders of all the Protestant churches in this section, therefore, it is a real challenge to preach the Gospel to the people.

Mrs. Gray and the baby are getting along just fine as the enclosed pictures will indicate to you. Baguio is a wonderful place for babies as there is much sunshine each day. The warm days and cool nights make it a delightful climate all the time.

Wishing you and Mrs. Maddry and all there in the office a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, we are

Yours sincerely,

Rufus and Marian Gray.

SBC, IMB, pp. 16-17.

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November 24, 1941

Dearest Mother, Dad and all:

Thanks so much for your letters for I have received three this week from you. Was so glad to hear and to know that you are all well and happy.

I am sure your radio message was sent but sometimes there is so much noise that we cannot hear them. Thanks just the same as I appreciate it just as much as if I had received it.

Was very glad to hear that the storm passed by for there are enough storms in life not to have to have any more.

The Bibles you ordered for me came today and I want to thank you for getting them for me.

Thanks for sending the box to the Byars in South Carolina as it was a big help to us to send them all to you and have you ship

them on for us. Today I am mailing you a small box for Christmas which I hope arrives safely. Enclosed is a gift for Olga, Carol, Wallace, Dad, you and two Chinese vases for the house.

We think it is a wonderful suggestion about opening an account for Billy. Marian and I thought of buying Government bonds that will come due in 10 or 15 years so he will have money for his education. We would also like to give a little towards this fund. In fact if Charline & Olga want to give us something they can just give the family a gift together and put it all in for Billy.

Marian received her birthday card for which she was very thankful but the baby has kept her so busy she has not had time to write. I think she feels like you write just to me and would appreciate having her name included in the letters.

Marian and I are in the best of health in every way. Billy is getting along fine for now he weighs about 10½ lbs.

We are celebrating thanksgiving twice last Thursday with Roasted Duck and all the trimmings. This week the language school is planning a barbeque for us all so we will have a big time again.

Marian and I are planning a quiet Xmas at home with a tree for the whole mission at our house. Dr. Rankin will be here so we will have lots of talking to do.

Was glad to hear Scott's promotion but could you tell me just what he has to do as am anxious to know?

Give my best regards to all

Love & kisses

Rufus, Marian & Billy

I received Dad's letter which I will answer by clipper in a few days. I have just received another letter and am glad to hear that the Walker boy is better.

FBHS RFG II, pp. 377-378.

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*Captive Community* is an eyewitness account of the experiences of five hundred American and British civilian—men, women, and children—caught in the Philippines during World War II. Three weeks after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese army seized them, imprisoned them, and stripped them of almost everything but their Yankee ingenuity, courage, and faith in God and country.

Among these were eight Southern Baptist missionaries: Hugo and Ruth Culpepper, Bob and Mary Dryer, Rufus and Marian Gray, Fern Harrington, and Cleo Morrison. Rufus Gray did not survive. Although he did not die of starvation, lack of food was their most persistent problem. When the U.S. Army took over Bilibid Prison, February 1945, medics reported that perhaps half the internees would have died within a month from diseases due to malnutrition.

*Captive Community* is a fascinating, heartwarming story of 37 months of struggle for survival in which a motley group of frightened strangers developed a sharing, caring community in captivity.

*Captive Community. Life in a Japanese Internment Camp, 1941-1945*, by Fern Harrington Miles was published by Mossy Creek Press, San Angelo, Texas, 187. The previous descriptions are on the back cover of the book. Hereafter referred to as Fern, and page number.

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December 21, 1941

“The Japanese Army took over. They woke us at 11:30 P.M. and kept us standing in one small crowded room until 2:30 A.M. checking off each one over and over. Finally they herded us all onto the second story where we all slept on the wooden floor all night. Mrs. Saleeby was allowed a mattress because of her age. About a dozen of us put our heads on it all around her, our bodies stemming out like rays of the sun. Many did not have blankets and it was a fire trap. [The Japanese officers] came about every half hour with heavy clumping boots and sharp staccato talk, would look in, stare at us like zoo animals, then go away. A machine gun was trained on us at the front door.

Natalie Crouter, *Forbidden Diary, a Record of Wartime Internment, 1941-1945*. Burt Franklin and Company, New York, 1980, p. 11. Hereafter Crouter and page number.

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Rufus's ears stuck out slightly from his head. Of medium height, Rufus was thin and wiry, with dark blue piercing eyes, delicate features, and neatly combed dark brown hair, except for a few sprigs in his crown that stood straight up. Marian was short, stocky, and slightly bowlegged, with blonde hair and a round face with dimples in each cheek when she smiled—which was most of the time.

Fern, p. 13.

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In this first confrontation with the Japanese, Marian revealed her indomitable will to provide for her baby son's needs. This same spirit helped her and Billy to survive the tragic events that lay ahead of them.

Fern, p. 25.

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Jim Halsema explains that according to Japanese official policy, clergy were exempt from internment. As in the case of many comparable policies, its interpretation varied according to the local military commander. The large number of missionaries in this camp was the result of two factors: many of them had served in China, which made them automatically suspect to the Japanese; and it was easier for the Japanese to keep them under surveillance in camp than if they had been living on the outside. Even though there were few repatriation ships, the clergy could probably have been repatriated if the Japanese had been willing. (To LZB interview, April 21, 1979.)

Crouter, footnote 15, p. 530

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Although five hundred was a relatively small population as prison camps go, space was the most precious commodity next to food. The rooms were carefully measured; in Natalie's barracks in Camp Holmes every adult was allotted a space thirty-three inches wide, and Natalie was aggrieved because her space was three inches less than this. Such conditions contributed, even in a time of international holocaust, to many of the bickerings, antagonisms, and internecine smolderings that caused fire and smoke throughout the camp's life.

Crouter, p. xxiii.

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Rufus F. Gray, twenty-six, was an American Baptist missionary whom the Japanese had accused of being an American spy because he had served in China and spoke Chinese. Bitter enemies of China, the Japanese mistrusted anyone with a Chinese affiliation. See Diary entry for April 14, 1942.

Crouter, footnote 38, p. 535.

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January 3, 1942

When we were interned Rufus began to read Psalms and to underline in red some of the verses. Here are some underlined  
Ps. 1:6-the way of the ungodly shall perish.

2:14-laugh

2:12-Blessed are all they that put their trust in him!

3:4-I cried unto the Lord with my voice and he heard me out of his holy will.

4:3-O, Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

6:2-have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak.

6:3-O lord, how long (The "how long" is covered with red and the date 1/3/42 written in red).

FBHS RFG III, p. 1.

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During the entire war, only one person from Camp Holmes died as a result of Japanese maltreatment: Rufus Gray was tortured to death, outside of camp, for alleged espionage.

Crouter, p. xxii.

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Psychological strains took their toll on the internees. There was a continual undercurrent of stress with the guards—the lower echelons were as deprived as their prisoners, and as homesick. There was the isolation, paradoxically, in the midst of constant overcrowding. There was the separation of families, both within the camp and from relatives outside, at home and abroad. Celibacy was imposed for three years; many independent decisions were preempted either by the Japanese or by committees of internees who established the rules. Communication with native Filipinos and other nearby residents was restricted. Internees received no mail from outside or Red Cross packages during the first two and a half years of the war. Medicines, dental materials and most other commodities were in short and erratic supply. And always there were confinement, regimentation, and crowding, which made animosities overt.

Crouter, pp. xxiii-xxiv.

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Rufus F. Gray, who had been tortured and killed by the Japanese military police in Baguio and had died on March 15, 1942, was the only war-related death among the internees throughout the war. See Diary, entry for July 29, 1942.

Crouter, footnote 19, p. 539.

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August 2, 1942

Prayer by Dr. Wm. Mather at the memorial service for Rufus Gray, Sunday, August 2, 1942, at Camp Holmes Concentration Camp, Baguio, P.I.

O Blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings and Lord of lords, who only hast immortality, bereavement, we sorrow not, even as the rest, who have no hope. We thank thee that thou didst so love the world, that thou gavest thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. We thank thee that, though thou sparedst not thine own Son, But deliveredst him up for us all, thou raisedst him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible that this Prince of life should be holden of it. We thank thee that through death he brought to nought him that had the power of death, and delivered all them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. We thank thee that our Savior Jesus Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. We thank thee that he said to his disciples, "Because I live, ye shall live also." We thank thee for his matchless words: "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me, shall never die." We thank thee that, because of this faith, his disciples can also say, "We are pressed on every side, yet not straitened; perplexed, yet not unto despair; pursued, yet not forsaken; smitten down, yet not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the putting to death of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our body;" "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

We thank thee for the life of our brother who has gone from us to thee, for his selfless devotion to those whom he sought to serve without any hope of earthly reward. And since thou hast promised to be a father of the fatherless and a judge of the widows and hast promised to uphold the fatherless and widow, we beseech thee to vouchsafe thy tenderest compassion to those who have been so sorely bereaved; give a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. All chastening seemeth for the present to be not joyous, but grievous;

but in this case may it yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness. O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of mercies and God of all comfort, wilt thou comfort this sister in all her affliction, that she may be able to comfort them that are in any affliction through the comfort wherewith she herself is comforted of thee.

Now unto thee who are able to guard us from stumbling, and to set us before the presence of thy glory without blemish in exceeding joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and power, before all time, and now, and forevermore. Amen.

FBHS RFG III, pp. 6-7.

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Fort Pierce, Florida  
September 26, 1942

Foreign Mission Board  
Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir,

Do you know when a list of the repatriates for the next boat will be available, coming from the Far East? Do you know if the group at Baguio, P.I. were among the prisoners who were moved to Shanghai?

Please pardon me for bothering you so much & thanks for your many courtesies.

Very Truly,  
Mrs. C.F. Gray

FBHS RFG V, p. 75.

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September 30, 1942

Mrs. C.F. Gray  
Fort Pierce, Florida

Dear Mrs. Gray:

I have your letter of September 26 and I wish that I had some definite news which I could pass on to you. We do not yet have a list of the repatriates from this boat coming from the Far East. We do not know who was taken to Shanghai for repatriation, but we do know that four of those 130 Americans were newspaper people. We have heard that there is a possibility that the others were transients from the Far East to the United States, who were caught in Manilla on their way home. In that case, we think that there is a possibility of our two missionaries, Miss Sallie James and Mr. Earl Parker, who were coming from China and were caught in Manilla, being among those who have been taken to Shanghai. From all the information we have been able to gather, we do not think there is any possibility of the group at Baguio being among those taken to Shanghai. I am sorry to have to pass this news on to you. As yet there seems to be no indication of an early repatriation of those in the Philippines.

You will be interested to know that Dr. Maddry has asked the people to especially remember this group of ten in the Philippines during these days. We are praying that if it is the Lord's will they may be released and brought home. I know how anxious you are about them, and I want you to always feel free to write and ask any questions which may arise in regard to them.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Gene Newton

Secretary to Dr. Maddry

GN/AC

SBC, IMB, p. 18.

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Fort Pierce, Florida

October 15, 1942

Foreign Mission Board

Richmond, Virginia

Dear Sir,

I do not understand the bulletins you send out when you say “Everyone in Baguio are well” and then in the further statement from Manila says “Fern Harrington is in good health.”

Fern Harrington was among the group of 10 Baptists at Baguio—and if you can get specific word of Fern Harrington, why not from the others? The reference concerning “Marian”—my son’s wife was named Marian. Of course, there is a possibility that this reference could be about her, but what of my boy and his child? I just can’t understand why in several bulletins a reference has been made of Fern Harrington, when none of the others in the group has been mentioned.

Sincerely,

Mrs. C.F. Gray

SBC, IMB, pp. 19-20.

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October 21, 1942

Mrs. C.F. Gray

Fort Pierce, Florida

Dear Mrs. Gray:

I greatly sympathize with you in your anxiety for some specific information concerning your son and his family who are in the Philippine Islands. Whatever news we are able to get is only that which is sent out of the Philippine Islands in one way or another. We have no facility from America for securing information in response to any effort we may make from this side.

Having spent some six months in an internment camp in Hong Kong, I am able to understand these bits of information which come through. It is sometimes possible for an individual here and there to slip out bits of information by someone who happens to be going or coming. We have no idea as to how the messages which were quoted in the bulletin of October 12 got out of the Philippine Islands. So far as we know, the Japanese have not

yet allowed messages from America to be sent to the Philippine Islands through any kind of channel. They have refused also to give information about the people who are there except in a general way to say that they are all well.

There are several agencies in America who are doing everything they can to secure information about Americans in the Philippines. Our Board has the names of all of our missionaries in the Philippines listed with these agencies. I feel confident that if there is any way for information to be secured from this side, these agencies will find a way to do so. However, as I have said above, all of the information which has come thus far has been sent in one way or another by those who are in the Philippine Islands.

The best news which I am able to send out about our people who are still in the Orient is the firm conviction that God is with all of these people. We shall keep on praying for them that God will take care of them and give them strength. My prayer is that He will also give you strength and grace as you carry this load of anxiety.

With kindest regards to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:kl

SBC, IMB, p. 21.

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November 16, 1942

Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Peeler

1301 Cayuga Street

Tampa, Florida

Dear Christian Friends:

I have received this morning a letter from Shanghai, China, dated August 15, which contains a reference to your daughter's husband, Mr. Rufus F. Gray, which I must pass on to

you, as well as to his own family without delay. I quote herewith the sentence with reference to him: "In reply to an inquiry through the International Red Cross we learned that the whereabouts of Rufus F. Gray is unknown, but that his wife and child are in the camp at Baguio." The letter continues to say, "the rest of the young people are at Baguio and Miss James and Mr. Parker are in Manilla, living in the city."

We have no knowledge as to how this information was secured by the International Red Cross. I am writing to the Red Cross representative in Washington at once to make further inquiry about this report and would suggest that you do likewise. You may address the letter to Miss Annie H. Lockett, Director, Inquiry Service, National Headquarters, American Red Cross, Washington, D.C. In my letter to Mr. and Mrs. Gray, I have suggested that they also do this.

The information about Rufus is not necessarily serious, but I am compelled to admit that it causes great anxiety. I know of other people, not of our missionaries, who have been reported missing in the Philippine Islands without any indication as to their exact situation. My wife's brother is in this group. He has been reported missing since shortly after the fall of the Philippine Islands. I have no basis for forming any opinion as to know how or why Rufus became separated from his wife and child. We will make every effort to secure additional information and if we learn any more, you may be certain that we will pass such information on to you at once.

I can easily sympathize with the anxiety you have for your daughter and her family, particularly for her husband. Our allegiance to our Lord is calling on some of us to go through as severe trials and dangers as our allegiance to our state is doing these days. Our faith in God brings great assurance; at the same time we cannot help but be deeply anxious. You have the deepest sympathy of our Board and we shall be praying for you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M.T. Rankin



MTR:ll

SBC, IMB, p. 22

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Gilman Paint and Varnish Co.  
Paint & Varnish Makers  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Nov. 23, 1942

Mr. Gene Newton,  
Secretary to Dr. Maddry,  
Foreign Mission Board  
of the Southern Baptist Convention  
Richmond, Va.

Dear Mr. Newton:

I appreciate very much your letter of November 20, and am greatly worried in your having no news of my friend, Mr. Rufus Gray.

It would seem that with all of your other missionaries and their families being accounted for, that the lack of any word from Mr. Gray cannot help but have a sinister aspect.

I met Mr. Gray a number of years ago, when he was having such a difficult struggle to attain his ambition to become a foreign missionary of your church, and we always rather felt that perhaps our meeting was providential.

I corresponded with him for a number of years, and became very much interested in him and his future, and grew to be very fond of him and his family, although we never met again, nor did I ever have the pleasure of meeting his wife.

Under these circumstances, I should like very much to be of any help possible, and in the event such an opportunity might arise, I would be glad if you would advise me, and also keep me posted as to any news you may get of him and his wife and child.

Should he have lost his life, his wife and child, without him to provide for them, possibly may face a pretty grim future,

after the war, and I should be glad if I am financially able at that time, to help contribute to their support.

Thanking you again for your letter, and assuring you of my appreciation of your keeping me posted in the future, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. D. Gilman, Jr.

WDG, Jr/G

FBHS RFG V, p. 82.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES HIGH COMMISSIONER  
TO THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS  
April 19, 1943

Mrs. Mary L. Peeler  
4575 N.W. 24th Avenue  
Miami, Florida.

My dear Mrs. Peeler:

The Provost Marshal General directs me to inform you that the persons listed below have been reported to be interned by Japan in the Philippine Islands. (Unofficial List)

GRAY, Mrs. And son

While communication by mail is still difficult due to infrequency of transportation between the United States and the Philippines, you may direct letters to the persons mentioned using the following form on the envelope:

Civilian Internee Mail

Postage Free

(Name of Internee),  
Interned by Japan  
Baguio Internment Camp,  
Baguio, Philippine Islands,  
VIA: New York, New York.

On reverse of envelope: Your complete name and address.

As all such mail will pass through American and foreign censors, you should be very careful not to mention any public matters, or any matters remotely concerning the armed forces of the United States or any other nation, or of the personnel thereof. Your letters should be short and limited to purely personal and family affairs. It is further deemed unwise to refer to any informal reports you may previously have received concerning the persons listed or others interned in Manila; to do so might endanger their welfare.

All future official correspondence respecting the persons listed herein should be directed to the Chief, Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D.C.

Very truly yours,  
E.D. Hester  
Economic Adviser

SBC, IMB, p. 24.

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Camp Holmes, Baguio  
Internment Camp, Philippines  
Sunday, August 22, 1943

Dearest Mama, Daddy Gray, Charline, J.C., Olga, Bill, Ames Scott, Wallace, Aunt Ida Mae, Church friends and all"

How thankful I am for this first opportunity of writing a letter to the outside after more than six hundred days of concentration. Not a day passes but what I think of you all and wish that I could be with you. I pray daily for God's care and blessings upon you. I know you have been praying for us, too, and God has answered in taking care of Billy and myself in a wonderful way. This has taught me that only the Lord can give us help and comfort if we will but trust Him.

All three of us were interned on Monday, December, twenty-ninth, nineteen hundred forty-one at Camp John Hay in Baguio. Four weeks later our beloved was sent Jan. 25, to be with our Father because of his unfailing devotion and love for the people to whom he was sent to preach. It must have been God's will and it has been only in Him that I have found comfort and help. Let us rejoice that he was ready to meet his Lord and that he is happy and in a better world. Several messages have been sent through the Red Cross to the Board but I'm not sure they have ever been received as we have had no mail since we were interned. I long to see you all and shall come there when we return. I want to bring the clothes and things to those of you who can use them. I pray that Billy and I can help comfort you and that I can be a real daughter to you, Mama. This has made me feel closer to you in every way. Billy is so sweet and affectionate and already has comforted me greatly and I know you will all love him, too.

There are over five hundred interned here just a few miles north of Baguio, to which place we were all moved on April 22, 1942. A large number are missionaries of many denominations. There are Bob and Mary Dyer, Ruth and Hugo Culpepper, Fern Harrington, Cleo Morrison, Billy and myself of our own So. Baptist Mission here and there are two of our missionaries in Manilla. The camp is situated in a very beautiful and healthful Mt. range and in the west we can see the sea. We have three barracks, several cottages, a nursery, a hospital, two school houses, a guard house, a large campus with tennis courts, playground and baseball field, a library, a barbersh[o]p, machine and carpenter shop, pens for goats (I have one goat I milk daily), chickens, cows and pigs. We have church on Sundays, entertainments on Sat. nights, classes of all kinds and the men play baseball every afternoon it doesn't rain. The men do the cooking, wood chopping, and all heavy work. The women pick over the rice we have usually three times daily, prepare the vegetables, teach school, clean the bathrooms and take care of the children. There is a camp truck which the guards take to town daily to buy meat and vegetables, but we never leave our bounds except in cases of emergency. Billy and I are in good health

and keep busy from morning 'till night. We live upstairs in one big room with one hundred and two other women and children. I have a wooden bed with mattress, shelves, a cabinet, a high chair, a stool, a hot plate on which I fix most of Billy's meals, and Billy has an all screen crib I made out of window screens. Billy is never still a minute. He talks all the time now, runs, and plays with the other children. He looks like both of us.

We managed at the first to bring in all of Billy's baby clothes which have been a blessing to many of the eighteen younger babies, too. Please thank and tell the kind ladies in the Missionary Society that every gift is still in use and very greatly appreciated, as well as your own gifts, by myself and many others. All of our other things except a few changes of clothes were left outside and almost everything has been saved thus far. We've been able to borrow money to buy extra things to supplement our diet and are fine so don't worry about us a minute. Just pray that God will comfort you and that we may soon be together again. I am leaving the future in God's hands. Please give our love to all and write the Board and my mother in case they don't hear. Please write me through the Red Cross.

Deepest love to all of you and to the children.

Marian & Billy

FBHS RFG III, p. 24

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October 16, 1943

Zone 20

Mrs. B.F. Gray

Box 834

Fort Pierce, Florida

Dear Mrs. Gray:

The news concerning the return to America of a large number of American citizens from the Japanese controlled areas of the Orient which is coming to us these days through our daily

papers and from the Department of State in Washington will inevitably bring to your mind and heart all the more painfully the consciousness that your son, Rufus, and his wife and child will not be on the Gripsholm when it arrives in New York. I am writing to express to you and Mr. Gray our sympathy in this disappointment. To some extent at least we share with you in it.

You have already been informed that the Japanese authorities consented that only American citizens who were caught in Manila in transit from the Orient to America should be included in the present arrangements for repatriation of American citizens from the Orient. Two of our missionaries from Manila came within this class, Miss Sallie James and Mr. Earle Parker, and their names appear on the list of those who are to arrive on the Gripsholm. We are hoping greatly that they will bring direct information concerning your son and his family and that they will have a message from your children directly to you. We deeply hope that they will be able to bring us information that will let us know that all three of them are well. We are especially anxious about the report that Rufus was "missing."

I shall be in New York to meet the group, and any information that they may bring will be sent on to you by telegram from there. We know that our anxiety cannot possibly be as deep as yours, but we do share with you in some measure in this trying experience. We shall be continuing to pray for those who have been left in the Philippine Islands and for their loved ones who so anxiously wait here at home.

With kindest personal regards to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:LL

SBC, IMB, p. 26.

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RELIEF FOR AMERICANS IN PHILIPPINES

101 Park Avenue

New York, 17, N.Y.  
December 6, 1943

Foreign Mission Board of the  
Southern Baptist Convention,  
Richmond, Va.

Dear Friends,

I have pleasure in enclosing a list of members of your Mission now interned at Camp Holmes, five miles outside of Baguio, P.I. I last saw these folks on September 26, 1943 and am glad to report that all are in good health.

Miss Morrison, Miss Harrington and Mr. Dyer are associated with the Camp hospital and have been very useful.

Mrs. Dyer's singing has been a pleasure to the Camp and she has given many recitals at our Saturday night socials which were enjoyed by all.

The death of your member, Mr. Rufus Gray, has undoubtedly been reported to you by other members of your Mission with whom I spoke during the "Gripsholm" trip. My report to the State Department of the circumstances surrounding Mr. Gray's death has been reported by me in detail. Mr. Gray was taken out of camp in the latter part of January 1942 together with all other missionaries associated with the Pekin[g] Language School. These groups were questioned by the Japanese gendarme. Three, including Mr. Gray, who were particularly under suspicion, were held for severe questioning. It is believed that Mr. Gray succumbed to the tortures which he underwent. The Japanese reported that his death occurred on March 15, 1942, but circumstantial evidence points to his death as having occurred around January 28, 1942. He was last seen by his associates at that time, when he was taken for questioning. It is impossible for me to go into detail at this time and write all that I know of this case. I believe members of your Mission who have just completed the "Gripsholm" trip have this story well in mind. I would ask that you refrain from making public any comments given above. I had intended to write Mrs. Gray's

mother and mother-in-law but feel that possibly this can be handled better by you.

Mrs. Gray gave me the enclosed photo which I smuggled out of camp and would appreciate if you had copies made and sent to her families. You will note Mrs. Gray's comments on the back of the photo.

Sincerely yours,  
William Portruge D.C.

Encls.

SBC, IMB, p. 27.

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December 8, 1943  
Zone 20  
Mrs. Mary L. Peeler  
1305 Talafax Avenue  
Tampa 5, Florida

Dear Mrs. Peeler:

On the arrival in New York of our people who came home on the Steamship Gripsholm, we were greatly distressed to have our fears concerning Mr. Rufus Gray confirmed. The Japanese authorities reported in March 1942 that he had died. Shortly after the capture of Baguio, Americans were interned, the men being separated from the women and children. Some of the men were taken by the Japanese from time to time to be questioned. Mr. Gray was among those who were taken. After he was taken, nothing further was known about him until March.

We do not know the cause of his death, nor do we know his circumstances at the time.

For the sake of those who are still in the Philippines, we have been cautioned to make no public statement about the nature of Mr. Gray's death. Naturally we shall have to inform the constituency that he is dead. I plan to prepare for our denominational papers a carefully worded statement. Other than



that statement, we do not intend to give out public information.

In New York I was not able to get in contact with anyone who had come from the Baguio camp. I understand that there was one nurse who came from the camp, but I was unable to see her. Miss Sallie James and Mr. Earl Parker, missionaries of our Board who came home on the Gripsholm, were in Manila and did not see the people at Baguio after they had been interned. Miss James talked with a doctor and a nurse in Manila who had come from the Baguio camp and who knew all of our people. In fact, the doctor, a woman, had Mrs. Gray and her baby under her care for a time. This doctor reported that both Mrs. Gray and the baby were doing well and that Mrs. Gray had borne up under the shock and strain of her husband's death in a remarkably brave way. All seven of our people were reported as being well. My understanding is that both living conditions and food supplies in the camp are fairly good. The internees have a hospital in charge of good doctors, who are internees also, the people are able to carry on educational work for themselves, and are able to have their regular religious services.

Miss Sallie James has your name and address and will write to you within a short time. She is not well and at present is under a doctor's care. She hopes, however, to be able to write to the relatives of all seven of our people who are in the camp within the next few days. Dr. Ralph Wells, Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York was interned in Manila and had communication with Baguio all through the months he was there. He will probably be able to give you a good deal of detailed information about the people there. If you will write directly to him in New York, I am sure he will be glad to send you what information he may have.

We share with you the anxiety for your daughter and her baby. We shall continue to do all we can to bring about a repatriation of the people in the Philippines and shall continue to join you in prayer for our people who are there.

With kindest regards to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:LL

SBC, IMB, pp. 28-29.

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December 8, 1943

Zone 20

Miss May Peeler

Gaffney

South Carolina

Dear Miss Peeler:

I am distressed to report to you that Mr. Rufus Gray died in the Philippine Islands sometime between the fall of the Island and March, 1942. We do not know how he died. He was in the hands of the Japanese. The women had been separated from the men. Mr. Gray was taken, along with some other men, to be questioned by the Japanese authorities. The other men who were taken along with him were later released, but Mr. Gray was not. Nothing was heard of him from that time until in March when a Japanese reported that he had died.

These are the only known facts about his death. For the sake of the seven who are still in Baguio, we have been urged to make no public statement, particularly to the press, concerning his death. We realize, of course, that we shall have to make some kind of statement to his relatives and friends. Any statement we make must be on the basis that we do not know the cause of his death.

Miss Sallie James, a missionary of our Board who was interned in Manila, talked with a doctor and a nurse who came down to Manila from the internment camp in Baguio. This doctor had been with Mrs. Gray and her baby. The doctor reported that both of them have been doing as well as could be expected. I gathered from her report that they are keeping well and that Mrs. Gray stood up under the shock of her husband's death in a very fine way.

I have given to Miss James the addresses of the relatives of all seven of our people who are in Baguio so that she can write

directly to them. She will be able to give many details as to food, living conditions, and general activity that I do not have. She is not well and is under a doctor's care, but she hopes to be able to get letters written to the immediate families within the next few days.

I am writing your mother at Talafax Avenue in Tampa. If I can assist you in any way in securing further information or making other contacts, I shall be happy to do so.

With kindest regards to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:LL

SBC, IMB, pp. 30-31.

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December 13, 1943

Zone 20

Mrs. F. C. Gray

Fort Pierce

Florida

Dear Mrs. Gray:

I am enclosing herewith a newspaper clipping which contains a statement which we have made to the Associated Press concerning the death of Rufus. I am sure you will be interested in this statement.

We have been cautioned by the United States authorities to be very careful as to what kind of statement we make about the people who came from the Orient. This is particularly true about those who came from the Philippine Islands. For the sake of those who are still there, we have to be certain that we are giving information that we can support with evidence. It is for that reason that we have been quite brief in what we have had to say about the nature of Rufus' death.

It was for this same reason that I felt it necessary to wait

until I returned to Richmond before I issued any statement even to you. I gave to you every bit of the actual information that I had received.

We want you to know that our deepest sympathy is constantly with you and that we are praying for you each day.

Very sincerely yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:LL

Of the eighty-eight missionaries connected with the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention who were caught in Japanese controlled areas of the Orient following the attack on Pearl Harbor, seventy-nine have been repatriated to the United States; one is still interned in Shanghai; seven are interned at Baguio in the Philippine Islands; and one has been reported as lost.

Repatriates who returned on the Gripsholm from Manila brought information that in March, 1942, Japanese authorities in the Philippine Islands reported the death of Mr. Rufus F. Gray. No information could be secured, however, as to the cause and circumstances of his death. When he was taken into custody by the Japanese, after the fall of the Philippine Islands, he became separated from his family and fellow missionaries. No information concerning him was made available until his death was reported in the following March.

Mr. Gray was born in Titusville, Florida. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Gray, are now living in Fort Pierce, Florida. His wife, who was Miss Marian Peeler of Tampa, Florida, and her young son are still in an internment camp in Baguio with six other missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board.

SBC, IMB, pp. 32-33.

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Fort Pierce, Florida

Dec. 15th, 1943

My dear Dr. Rankin,

Your letter of Dec. 6th received. I was severely shocked to get the news about Rufus. I don't know why I have never thought he could be gone. I always thought of him as coming proudly home. I can only accept it as "One who works in mysterious ways" and knowing that He knoweth best.

Rufus was so thoughtful, and I have been so dependent on him for counsel and strength. I have heard from Miss James, she too, assured me that Marian and the baby were alright. I was getting to be dubious of their well being.

Dr. Rankin, if you know of any details, I had rather know, than to surmise so much, and often wildly and fantastical.

I thank you so much for your kind words of comfort. It is, indeed, a comfort to know that he was doing his chosen field of work and was at his Master's business.

The Board has been splendid in every way, and I know that each one of you have been deeply concerned. I am very grateful for every prayer, and kind word that has been said.

Sincerely,

Mrs. C.F. Gray

SBC, IMB, pp. 34-35.

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December 20, 1943

Zone 20

Mrs. C. F. Gray

Fort Pierce

Florida

Dear Mrs. Gray:

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your beautiful letter of December 15. The kind of letter you have written can come out of only the great Christian heart. I have read every word

of it with the realization that Rufus' mother was writing this letter.

Since I wrote to you I have learned one or two more details concerning the time when Rufus became separated from the other Americans and the time when his death was reported, but I have not learned any further details as to the circumstances of his death.

In the latter part of January, 1942, all of the students of the Chinese language school in Baguio were taken out of the internment camp by the Japanese to be questioned. It seems that the Japanese were suspicious as to why all of these students had come from Peking to the Philippine Islands. After being questioned, all of them were released except three who were being held for further questioning. The other two who were taken with Rufus were later released, but Rufus was not. He was last seen by the others on January 28, 1942. The Japanese reported that his death occurred on March 15, 1942.

These are the full and complete details which have been given to me. I want to assure you that I am not holding from you a single known fact. Because of possible reaction on the people who are still in the hands of the Japanese, I have not given to the press the full details, which I have just given to you, as to how and why Rufus became separated from the other language school students and Americans.

I want to offer you one source of assurance. Whatever may have come to Rufus, I am certain that he had strength given to him to meet it. I have come to know in a way that I never realized before the trial in the verse of scriptures, "As the days so shall thy strength be." God gives strength and peace to His servants to meet conditions and experiences which ordinarily we think we could not possibly meet. I share with you the apprehension which I know you have as to what might have happened to Rufus. Whatever that was, I am comforted in my firm belief that Rufus was able to meet whatever came to him with strength that was more than human; it was strength that God himself gives.

I am sending you under separate cover a photograph of Marian and Billy. This is a copy of a picture that was smuggled out of the camp by a Mr. Portruge of Washington, D.C., and was

sent on to us here in Richmond. We are sending the original picture to Mrs. Peeler. It has a personal message on the back of it for all of us. The message was written on September 19, 1943, and is as follows "Greetings and love to: the Southern Baptist Mission Board, Richmond, Virginia.

"Marian and Billy Gray taken September 7, 1943, the day before Billy's second birthday. Both well and fine."

"Please send copies to our families if possible."

"We miss Rufus greatly since he went to be with the Lord on January 25, 1942, because of his love for the people to whom he was sent."

I know that you will be happy to have this picture and message. The writing is in Marian's handwriting, I am sure.

It will be best not to make a public statement as to how the picture came out of the internment camp. I am certain that the man who smuggled it out would rather that this not be made public.

We shall be glad to furnish you with any other information that may come to us.

With warm appreciation of you, I am

Always very sincerely yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:LL

SBC, IMB, pp. 36-37.

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December 20, 1943

Mrs. Mary L. Peeler  
1305 Talafax Avenue  
Tampa, Florida

Dear Mrs. Peeler:

I am happy to send you herewith a photograph of your daughter, Mrs. Rufus Gray and her son, Billy, which has a personal message on the back of it.

This photograph was smuggled out of the camp in Baguio by one of the repatriates who came home on the Gripsholm. This man, Mr. William Portruge, whom we do not know, sent the photograph to us from New York and requested that no public statement be made as to how it reached us.

We have had copies of the photograph made, one of which I am sending to you under separate cover. I have sent another to Mrs. Gray at Fort Pierce. I know that this photograph and message will be of great comfort to you.

We have had no further details concerning the cause and circumstances of Mr. Gray's death. A few more facts concerning the way in which he was separated from the other Americans have reached us. Three of the language school students, including Mr. Gray, were taken by the Japanese for questioning near the end of January, 1942. The other two, who were taken with him, were released later. Mr. Gray was last seen on January 28. The Japanese reported that his death occurred on March 15, 1942. We are not making these further details available for the press. It is best to make no further public statement.

If any further information reaches us, we shall be glad to pass it on to you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Cordially yours,

M.T. Rankin

MRT/kl

encl.

SBC, IMB, p. 38.

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Fort Pierce, Florida

Dec. 20th, 1943

Foreign Mission Board

Richmond, Virginia

Dear Dr. Rankin,



I had a letter from Marian today. She said she was writing the Board, also her mother, but in case her letters went astray for me to contact you.

She said since they were interned Dec. 29, 1941, she has not had an opportunity to write nor has she received any mail. The only reference once to Rufus was brief, probably on account of censorship. She said "All three of us were interned on Dec. 29, 1941 at Camp John Hays in Baguio. Four weeks later our beloved was sent Jan. 25, to be with our Father because of his unfailing devotion and love for the people to whom he was sent to preach."

Dr. Rankin, as you probably know Rufus carried an insurance policy payable to me. Will you please advise me just what procedure to take? Is there any indebtedness to the Board the policy that he carries for Marian will probably have to be held until such a time as she will be able to claim it. Is that right? How little I dreamed their going would end like this. Their future so seemingly bright. Surely can't see.

Thanks for your many kindnesses

Very Truly,

Mrs. C.F. Gray

P.O. Box 834.

FBHS, RFG, V, pp. 103-104.

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December 24, 1943

Zone 20

Mr. W. G. Gilman, Jr.

In care of Gilman Paint and Varnish Company

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Gilman:

We received a letter from you some months ago asking that we inform you of any information that might come to us concerning Mr. Rufus Gray, who had been reported missing in the Philippine Islands following the occupation of those islands by the

Japanese Army.

We are exceedingly sorry to report that Mr. Gray died sometime between January and March, 1942. This information was brought to us by people who came home on the last trip of the Steamship Gripsholm.

We do not have any certain knowledge as to the cause or nature of his death, and we have been cautioned not to make any public statement as to our apprehension. In view of your personal friendship with him, I will give to you the facts as we know them. It seems that all of the young people who had been moved to the Philippine Islands from Peking in connection with the Chinese language school came under the particular ----- of the Japanese. In January all of these students were taken out of the internment camp for questioning. All of them except three were released after rather casual questioning. Mr. Gray was among the three kept for more detailed questioning. Later two of these were released, but Mr. Gray was held. The last that any of his friends saw or heard directly of him was at that time, about January 28. Repeated inquiries were made about him by his fellow Americans, but it was not until March 15, 1942, that the Japanese reported that he had died.

These are all the facts that the people in the internment camp know. Mrs. Gray and her son Billy are reported as doing as well as could be expected in the internment camp. A friend of hers who came home on the Gripsholm was able to bring out of the camp a photograph taken of Mrs. Gray and Billy in September. The friend reported that both of them were in good health, and the picture seems to bear this report out, except that Mrs. Gray looks rather thin.

I was closely associated with Mr. Gray in China and heard him speak often of you. He and Mrs. Gray both greatly appreciated your friendship. Whenever we receive further information about Mrs. Gray and Billy we will let you have it.

With kindest regards to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:LL

SBC, IMB, pp. 41-42.

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First Baptist Church  
Allen W. Graves, Pastor  
Fort Pierce, Florida

Dec. 24, 1943

Dr. M.T. Rankin,  
Foreign Mission Board  
Richmond, Va.

Dear Dr. Rankin:

All of us have been grieved and shocked by the news of the death of Rufus Gray. He was dear to all our hearts. He was my class mate at the Seminary. As his family's pastor I have shared the anxiety of his mother and his family in their concern for his welfare. I have tried to comfort his mother in suggesting that his life has not been in vain, that the "blood of martyrs is the seed of the church." "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

We have talked together about the preparation of the story of his life, to be written and shared with the hope that it might challenge others to a new view of Christian service and possibly lead to the commitment of other lives to the task to which he gave himself to the last full measure of devotion.

I should appreciate your counsel in this matter. No doubt much care should be exercised in publishing anything that might jeopardize the welfare of his wife and baby and the others still in Japanese hands.

Mrs. Gray has received a letter, last week from Rufus' wife. She indicated that she was also writing the Board and her mother. It confirmed the report of Rufus' death and indicated that they were in fair circumstances.

Yours sincerely,  
Allen Graves,

AG:AW

SBC, IMB, p. 43.

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December 29, 1943

Zone 20

Dr. Allen Graves  
First Baptist Church  
Fort Pierce, Florida

Dear Dr. Graves:

I appreciate your letter of December 24, with reference to the death of Rufus Gray. It has been good to know that you were in Fort Pierce and that you would be able to help Mrs. Gray meet the shock of his death. Although she had long since accepted the possibility that he was gone, the news that his death had actually taken place was inevitably a shock to her.

I am interested in your thought about the preparation of the life story of Rufus. I think this might well be undertaken now while the influence of his devotion is still fresh with our people. I doubt seriously if we shall ever have positive information as to the exact circumstances and cause of his death. That is to say, I think it is probable that we now have in hand about as much authentic information as we shall ever have, and the impact of the story on our people will be much more effective now than it will be a year or so later. I think you are in an excellent position to undertake this task.

I shall be glad to co-operate with you in any way I can if you decide to prepare this story.

With kindest personal regards to you, I am

Cordially yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:LL

Executive Board  
Florida Baptist Convention  
C.H. Bolton, Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
218 W. Church Street  
Jacksonville, Florida  
M.D. Jackson  
Recording Secretary

P.O. Box 825  
Orlando, Florida

Dr. Charles E. Maddry  
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Dr. Maddry:

The following Resolution was adopted by the Florida Baptist Convention in session in Bradenton in January:

#### RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF RUFUS GRAY

All Southern Baptists were grieved and shocked to hear the news of the tragic death of Rufus Gray Southern Baptist Missionary to China, interned by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands.

Whereas all join in continued and prayerful concern for his wife, Marian Peeler Gray and their two year old son. Billy, still interned by the Japanese in the Philippines and likewise join in heartfelt sympathy with his parents and loved ones in this country.

Be it therefore resolved that this convention express to the wife and baby, through our Foreign Mission Board, and to the loved ones here in America, our sincere sympathy and our gratitude to God for the undying testimony of the life Rufus Gray who as his wife writes from her internment camp, was sent January 25, 1942 "To be with our Father because of his unfailing devotion and love

for the people to whom he was sent to preach.”

Be it further resolved that we lay upon the hearts of our people the challenge of the divinely appointed task which has been left unfinished in our hands by Him who has charged us, “Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.”

Allen W. Graves, Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Fort Pierce, Fla.

Respectfully,  
M.D. Jackson

FBHS, RFG, V, p. 117.

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Gilman Paint and Varnish Co.  
Paint & Varnish Makers  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
January 3, 1944

Mr. M.T. Rankin,  
% Foreign Mission Board,  
of the Southern Baptist Convention.  
Richmond, 20, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

I was deeply depressed on reading your letter of December 24, as I had retained the hope that through some confusion, Rufus Gray's name had not been reported, and your letter, of course, wipes out all remaining hope.

I met Rufus Gray many years ago, when he was hitchhiking from Atlanta on his way to Richmond to study for the ministry. In getting acquainted with him on our drive to Chattanooga, I was impressed by his sincerity and steadfast character.

We continued to correspond for many years, and I am happy to have had a small part in helping him somewhat in the

years when he struggled to attain his ambition.

I never had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Gray, but from the pictures he sent me, and a letter she wrote Mrs. Gilman, I am certain she is a very lovely and attractive character. I wrote her, and I believe sent you a copy of the letter, but have never heard from her, and am now going to take steps to see if I can communicate with her through the Red Cross, and do what Mrs. Gilman and I can to assist her.

I have a notion that a guilty conscience will probably prevent the Japanese from allowing her to return to this country in the near future, but should she do so, we would be interested in her future and that of her son, and would like to be of some assistance. So anything you may know of that we might be helpful in would be of interest, and I would appreciate your writing me.

Thanking you for your interest, and with kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

W.D. Gilman, Jr.

WDG, JR/G

SBC, IMB, p. 48.

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March 4, 1944

Dr. Allen W. Graves

First Baptist Church

Fort Pierce, Florida

Dear Dr. Graves:

I have read with much interest the issue of Good Tidings which you dedicated to the memory of Rufus Gray. I think you have done an excellent thing in issuing this special number. It has been done in a worthy way and, I know, will be an inspiration not only to the families of Mr. and Mrs. Gray but also to other people.

I was glad to notice that the Florida Baptist Convention passed a resolution in memory of Rufus. We are planning to run his

picture with a special tribute to his memory in one issue of The Commission before long. I do not recall now in which issue this is to appear.

With kindest regards to you, I am,

Cordially yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:HY

SBC, IMB, p. 49.

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Post Chapel

Camp Elliott

San Diego, 44, California.

Dr. M.T. Rankin,

Foreign Mission Board,

Southern Baptist Convention,

Richmond, Virginia.

Dear Dr. Rankin:

This morning's mail brought me a communication from the Seminary at Louisville, telling me of the death of Rufus Gray. You will never know how heavy my heart is made by this tragic news. Rufus and myself were classmates at Louisville as well as next door neighbors in Rice Hall. Marian and Mrs. Hollingsworth were likewise the closest of friends. So many times did we go out into the Park and have our wiener roasts and picnic dinners together, to say the least of the many talks and "Bull Sessions" in one another's apartments.

Since I have entered the Navy as a Chaplain I have been assigned to Marine duty and have found it just a bit difficult to keep up with the news of my classmates and friends who are serving the civilian pastorates, so the news of Rufus' death is the first that I have had in the way of tragedy since I have come in the



service.

Is it possible that your office might be able to supply me with the mailing address of Marian? I would like to write her such a letter as I could, in spite of the "exigencies of war," also I am sure that Margaret would want to write her as often as possible and as regularly as possible. Incidentally are you in a position to know whether or not Marian knows about Rufus' death? I have heard of such things happening, you know.

Yours truly,

John E. Hollingsworth  
Chaplain, USNR.

SBC, IMB, p. 50.

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March 29, 1944

Chaplain John E. Hollingsworth  
Post Chapel, Camp Elliott  
San Diego 44, California

Dear Chaplain Hollingsworth:

I can appreciate the distress which the news of the death of Rufus Gray brought to you. I am sorry that I am unable to furnish you with very much information about the circumstances of his death. The actual known facts are that he and several other students of the Chinese Language School, which was temporarily located in the Philippine Islands, were taken by the Japanese Military Police for special questioning. After a day or two, the others who were taken out of the camp with Rufus were released, but Rufus was not. As I recall, this occurred in January, 1942. Nothing whatever was heard of him until sometime in March when, after repeated inquiries, the Japanese authorities disclosed that he had died; they said "of a broken heart."

Because of the effect which any statement from us may have on our people who are still in the hands of the Japanese in the Philippine Islands, we have had to be very careful about the public

statements we have made. Naturally, we have great apprehension as to the real cause of his death, but it is not wise for us to give expression publicly to those apprehensions.

When the last group of people came home, in December of last year, on the Gripsholm, we had fairly authentic information about Marian and her little boy Billy, as well as about the other missionaries who are in the internment camp. Under the circumstances, they seem to be getting along fairly well. The letters which they sent have a quality of being authentic accounts of conditions, except we assume that they were not allowed to say anything about the difficult side of their living conditions. It is encouraging to know, however, that they have as much good as the letters indicated.

We have been notified that we may write to the civilian prisoners of war at the following address: Mrs. Rufus Gray, Civilian Internee, Camp Holmes, Baguio, Philippine Islands, via New York, N.Y. The letter must be of only one page, typewritten, and of purely personal matters. It can be sent postage free. In the place of the stamp write Civilian Internee Mail.

We have no way of knowing that these letters actually reach the people to whom they are addressed. Other than the letters which came on the Gripsholm, we have had no word from our people in the Philippine Islands. Even so, it is well worth a trial. In case a letter does get through, it will be most helpful.

With kindest regards to you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M.T. Rankin

MTR:HY

SBC, IMB, p. 51.

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Fort Pierce, Florida  
Sept. 8th, 1944

Dear Dr. Rankin,

I am enclosing clipping from newspaper of which I referred.

It was a wonderful privilege to have the opportunity to meet you and your fine family, Dr. Maddry, and all the splendid missionaries. I will never forget my trip to Ridgecrest, and hope it will not be my last.

Was sorry I did not get to express my thanks, and bid Dr. Maddry goodbye, but did not find him.

Today happens to be little Billy's birthday.

Kindest regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mrs. C.F. Gray

P.S. It is not necessary to return clipping. C.G.

FBHS, RFG, V, p. 133-134.

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"Besides the murdered Rufus Gray, only twelve internees died during the war—either from afflictions related to old age or from the effects of prewar illnesses."

Crouter, p. xxiv

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February 4, 1945

Message

Commandant Major Ebiko: 1. The Japanese Army is now going to release all the prisoners of war and internees here on its own accord. 2. We are assigned to another duty and shall be here no more. 3. You are at liberty to act and live as free persons, but you must be aware of probable dangers if you go out. 4. We shall leave here foodstuffs, medicines and other necessities of which you may avail yourselves for the time being. 5. We have arranged to put

up signboard at the front gate, bearing the following context:—  
Lawfully released Prisoners of War and Internees are quartered  
here. Please do not molest them unless they make positive  
resistance.”

Crouter, p. 470.

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February 7, 1945

About ten, there were big cheers in the hall and someone said it was General MacArthur and his staff. I was too dull and weary to go to look and not much interested. Still trying to function mentally as well as physically, I was standing in our space by the double bunk when MacArthur came through the door at the far end of the room. I stepped back and my mind registered disjointedly, “Here comes another Commandant, down the long aisle just like Oura did—was it last week? I wonder if I should bow from the waist down” I felt hopelessly mixed up. When the General passed the bunk he turned and looked into my face directly. He grabbed my hand and shook it, over and over, up and down. I was utterly dumb. I felt and looked more miserable and wretched every second. I could not say a word and just looked back at him speechless as we pumped our arms up and down, up and down. All of the last three years was in my mind and face, and at this actual, concrete moment of release, this biggest moment of my life, I felt no joy or relief, only deep sadness which could not come into words. The General did not say anything either. We just stood there pumping our arms up and down, looking at each other searchingly. Then he went on out the door. I was the only one he stopped to speak to in this long room, and there was no reason for it—it wasn’t recognition of anyone he knew or thought was familiar. He felt deeply moved and there was inarticulate expression of it in the strong, speechless handshake. Neither of us could have expressed any of our thoughts.

Crouter, p. 477-478.

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The Japanese entrenched themselves in the buildings of downtown Manila near Bilibid. Our army had to take the buildings one at a time, room by room. This kind of warfare was new to our soldiers since their only experience had been in the jungles of the South Pacific. Cannon and mortar shells whined, whistled or occasionally sounded like someone tearing a crisp fabric like taffeta as they went over our heads from both directions.

In spite of the crucial military situation, the U.S. army did not neglect us. The next day after we returned to Bilibid, General Douglas MacArthur came to see us and promised to send all of us home soon.

That same day American Red Cross workers also came in with mail from home and gave us pencils and paper to write one letter each. As I tried to write home, I burst into tears. What could I say? I dared not tell them about losing what few possessions I had. Nor that we were on the front lines with an estimated four hundred shells per minute whizzing overhead. Nor that I had beriberi and could hardly bear the pain of my swollen legs and fingers.

Fern, p. 168.

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February 9, 1945

How we do thank God for our release several days ago when the American Forces arrived. No human words can describe our relief and joy, so I shall not try. I can only say that God has taken care of us through many difficult experiences and my feelings are full of thanksgiving to Him. I am trusting that we shall soon be with you all again. Yesterday we received your letter, Mother, of Nov. 27, 1944, and your letter, Mama, of Nov. 10, 1944, both of which makes us very happy as they are the first we have received since your letters of about last May and June. We have never heard from the Board nor from any of the other folks except two from Cousin Mae. We have heard from Mr. W.G. Gilman, Jr., Chattanooga, Tenn., twice, whose letters we appreciated greatly, and from Helen

Dorman and several school friends and that has been all of our mail for over three years. We also received the two packages from you Mother which helped us when we needed it most.

I am so thankful of this first opportunity to write in our free status as there is so much I've wanted to write about but now that I have the opportunity I do not know how to begin so I think I can only write of our present joy over being released and of our future plans. We are hoping that we are going to be sent right home and Gen. MacArthur said when he visited us yesterday that this was the plan; so we shall soon be seeing you I think and then I can tell you about the past experiences which have been on the whole not too bad in comparison with those of the military war prisoners. There are 465 in our group here which were moved here December 28-29, 1944, by the Japanese from Camp Holmes in Baguio. As a whole our health is fairly good. All are underweight but with more food like we've had since the forces arrived five days ago, we shall soon gain back all that we have lost and more, too. Billy is well and has been wonderful through all the confusion. He thinks and talks only of going home to America and of seeing all of you. He names you over every day and prays for you always in his daily prayers. From the way we have talked about America I am afraid he is still a bit confused about America not being Heaven where his Daddy is. The rest of our group are mostly undernourished or underweight. I have had a chronic swelling of glands since May, 1944, which the Doctors suspect to be Hodgkin's Disease and they advise that I have a thorough and immediate medical examination as soon as I reach the States as we have had no equipment to do this here. I spent from May 15, 1944, to December 28, 1944, (when we came to Manila) in our camp hospital with one month in the Baguio hospital. Was up all the time, not in bed, but without a diagnosis there was no treatment possible except rest. The Dyes, Fern Herrington, Cleo Morrison and the Culpeppers took care of Billy. Since being here I've taken care of him so as not to be separated. I feel good most of the time but still have glands swelling off and on. When I return I hope to leave him with some of you while I get some medical diagnosis and treatment, which I

hope will only take a very short time. We may fly home, and if so it won't be long until I see you. We thank you for your prayers and love and we have felt the power of them in God's providential care of us constantly. Please pass this letter on as we are allowed this one this time. Our deepest love to all—Marian

I was just told that we could write on both sides of the paper for which I am glad as there is more I wanted to say, and that is about Rufus. So far, I do not know a single thing for certain concerning his death. The last day or so I have had many talks with representatives of various army departments. All refer me to Amer. Red Cross representative, but as yet I haven't been able to contact him. The others say that they doubt that I shall ever be able to find out very much. However, I have talked with some of our men who went through the same treatment as Rufus, we think, only they recovered. I think from all the details I've been able to gather that Rufus died Jan. 25, 1942, at about 5:00 or 6:00 P.M. as a result of being struck in a vital place or as a result of being made to swallow too much water, all in an effort to get him to confess that he was a spy for American Govt. I think his death was very quick as he was last seen about 30 min. before he was questioned and I still believe from all the circumstances that his death was not intentional. I do not know where he was buried or whether he was cremated as the Japanese reported to me when they finally told me he was dead after 6 mos. of trying to get them to tell me where he was during which time I never dreamed he was dead. However, there are several good Philippine and Chinese friends in Baguio whom I hope to contact after the war and perhaps they will be able to find out more. I shall have to wait until later tho, as there is still very heavy fighting in Baguio as well as here. Will write again as soon as possible.

Marian

FBHS, RFG, III, pp. 26-27.

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February 25, 1945

At dusk after supper there was a scene we never expected to see within Bilibid walls. An American Army band of about 50 tanned khaki-clad men, seated in a semicircle, fanwise from the main door, with instruments from the biggest brass horn down to the reedy piccolo, played about an hour to us. It was stunning music—the kind we hadn't heard for three years. We loved a piece called "Deep Purple" which had a Gershwin sound to it. They closed with "The Star Spangled Banner" and Philippines, My Philippines—the first sound of it in three years. I stood with tears streaming down my cheeks. It was just too much, something we had hardly dared to dream."

Crouter, pp. 489-490.

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February 27, 1945

There are hideous wounds among innocent civilians. It is a nightmare peopled with those we used to know, every name familiar. Total war spares no one, crushes all. One cannot win in war.

Crouter, p. 490.

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Gilman Paint and Varnish Co.

Paint & Varnish Makers

Chattanooga, Tenn.

July 31, 1945

Mrs. Marian P. Gray

P.O. Box 98

Ridgecrest, North Carolina

Dear Mrs. Gray:

I appreciate more than I can tell you your good letter of July 12, and appreciate very much the effort I know it calls for, for you to write in detail of the painful experience you have been



through, for which I am truly sympathetic, and have the greatest admiration for the courageous way you have and are meeting the trials and difficulties which have beset your path.

Someway, I can't help but feel that you and little Billy have been spared for some good purpose, and I believe you will both have the faith and courage to do that which He would have you accomplish in life. Certainly Rufus set us all an example with his faith and courage, that we should all try to follow.

Yes, you and Rufus guessed right as to my name, which is William Douglas Gilman, Jr. Needless to say, I am very proud that two such good people as you and Rufus should want to name your boy for me, and I hope that he may grow into as good and fine a man as his father.

In this connection, I am enclosing Billy's birth certificate, which you sent me, of which I have had made several photo static copies, one of which I am enclosing in this letter to you, along with the original, so that you can, if you wish, put them in two different places, so that you will have two copies instead of one.

I am doing some figuring on the matter of creating a small trust fund for Billy, and unless there is involved more gift tax than I think will be involved, I hope to be able to start a trust fund this year, for him of \$1,000.00, the income from which will be added to the fund each year, and possibly I may be able to add to the principal later, so that there may be something available to assist him in getting an education, though I will not limit it in any way to a theological education, for I do not presume to know what the Good Lord may want him to do.

However, I do want him to realize that the trust fund he will inherit is an expression of respect and admiration for the religious principles and courageous, unselfish life of his father and mother, and the hope that he may grow into a man with the same fine principles and ideals.

It seems to me your most difficult job will be not to spoil your son with the lavish love you hold for him, which is perfectly natural. However, as you look back, I believe you will agree that it was the hardships and privations that gave you and Rufus the

strength and determination necessary to accomplish your ambitions, and undoubtedly had things been made a great deal easier for you, neither of you would have had the strength of character nor the hardihood necessary to have met the difficulties you met in life.

Therefore, while it is the natural[1]y inclination to want to make life much easier for Billy than it was for you and Rufus, the fact should not be lost sight of that if things are made too easy for him it will be more difficult for him to be the man of courage and character you want to see him become, for I am convinced that most of us only gain character through the hardships and difficulties we have to overcome, and that when things are too easy for us, we become soft, and weak in character.

I will write you as soon as I am able to put this trust into effect, and I will probably appoint the American Trust and Banking Company co-trustees so that they may carry on and look after the trust, in the event anything should happen to me.

I notice by the birth certificate that Billy will not be four years old until the 8th of September, and the little picture you sent me of him gives the impression that he is indeed a husky specimen for a boy less than four years old.

I presume that he might be ready to go to college by the time he is eighteen or nineteen years old. Therefore, I presume the trust should make it possible for some funds to be available for his education by the time he is eighteen or nineteen years old, or do you think it should be at an earlier date?

It is hard to look ahead and make provisions for conditions we have no way of knowing may exist, but we will try to make it liberal and flexible enough to be of the greatest benefit to him.

I am glad to hear you are making progress and regaining your health, and I think you are wise in concentrating on this first and foremost, for with the regaining of your health you can be of much greater assistance to Billy.

I had a letter from the Missionary Branch of your church, and I understood there was available some form of pension and financial aid for you, and I would be glad to know how this works

out, and if it is sufficient for your care and maintenance, how your personal finances may be, and if I can be of any assistance to you. Thanking you again for your much appreciated letter, and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

W.D. Gilman, Jr.

WDG, Jr/G

FBHS, RFG, III, pp. 96-98.

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Woman's Missionary Union  
Auxiliary to Florida Baptist Convention  
207 Rogers Building  
Jacksonville 2, Florida

Miss Josephine Jones  
Executive Secretary  
Miss Elsie Renfroe  
Young People's Secretary  
August 1, 1945

Mrs. R.F. Gray  
1305 Palafox Avenue  
Tampa 5, Florida

Dear Mrs. Gray,

First of all, let me welcome you back to the states and particularly to Florida. Also, all of us want you to know that we are so grateful for your and Billy's safe return.

I do not know what instructions you may have from the Foreign Mission Board or from the doctors about accepting speaking engagements. However, if you think it will be possible for you to do so in the early part of 1946, we should like very much for you to speak in some of our Schools of Missions.

We are scheduling such schools in various parts of the state

beginning with the week of January 27 and going through February, March and possibly part of April. Do you know whether you could participate in some of these schools as one of the missionary speakers? We do not want you to do anything that is not wise for you or Billy, but we are eager for Florida Baptists to hear your missionary message whenever and wherever possible.

Please let me know, if you can, whether and when you could give some of the above time to the schools. I shall be looking forward to hearing from you.

With every good wish for you and Billy, I am

Sincerely yours,

Josephine Jones

J/W

FBHS, RFG, III, p. 99.

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*Good Tidings*, September, 1945, Volume 2, No. 11, pp. 1, 3.  
Newsletter of First Baptist Church, Fort Pierce

‘Wife of Rufus Gray Writes of Life in Japanese Prison Camp’

September 1, 1945

At last we are home again, thanks to God’s goodness in allowing our American forces to liberate us and to the prayers of relatives and friends.

Billy is still confused about the United States not being Heaven because during the three years and five weeks during which we were prisoners of the Japanese on the concentration camp at Baguio, Philippine Islands, and at Bilibid Prison in Manila, we always talked about Rufus, his father being in Heaven and what a wonderful place it was and also about how we hoped to be going soon to America which was such a grand place where we would have all of the things which we then didn’t have but needed.

But Billy and I were extremely happy when our dreams came true and we returned to the States on May 2, 1945. Since then

we have been so busy catching up with eating some of all of the good foods here, visiting relatives and friends, resting and getting caught up on the progress of the world that we have had little time to think very much of our life in camp. There are parts of our life there, however, which I never want to forget because they brought me closer to God and made me into a better and more earnest Christian and it is these parts in which you, who have prayed for us so faithfully, would be most interested.

On the morning of December 8, 1941, I was just finishing giving Billy, who was three months old that day, a bath when Rufus came rushing home from school and said that a noise a little before that was caused by the Japanese bombing Camp John Hay which was a military camp about five miles from us. He said that this meant war and it did. After three weeks of uncertainty during bombing raids the Japanese army reached Baguio and Rufus, Billy and I were interned along with about 400 American and Allied nationals on December 29, 1941.

The first four days all 400 were in one large room together sleeping on the floor, anywhere we could find a space large enough to stretch out, during which time we had no water whatever for drinking or for anything. This was the first great lesson we learned—to appreciate water! After four days the men were moved to the next building.

About three weeks after we were interned the Japanese announced that their Military Police wanted to interview all of the missionaries in the camp (about 175) and that groups in alphabetical order would be taken down daily to the Intelligence Department for questioning, beginning on January 23rd. On the 24th, while interviewing the first group of young missionary students from the School of Chinese Studies, which had been moved from Peking, China, to Baguio in March, 1941, the Japanese became interested and suspicious of the school. That afternoon they called down the Principal of the school who was Mrs. John Hayes, and who was carrying on the school work for her husband who was still in China. They also called down two Chinese teachers who spoke English, a man and a woman, and also

going down was the next student in alphabetical order, Mr. Rolland Flory. The two women were questioned and threatened and the Chinese man teacher and the student were both beaten very severely and given the water treatment until they were unconscious in an effort to get them to say that the School was an anti-Japanese propaganda school and that the 60 missionary students were spies for the American government. After regaining consciousness these two were taken to jail where they remained for weeks.

The following day, January 25, 1942, it happened to be Rufus' turn to go as Gray was next on their alphabetical list, so he and one other student, Rev. Carroll Hinderlie, went down in the group for that day. That night Rev. Hinderlie was brought back to camp after being beaten severely and accused of being a spy. Rufus wasn't brought back and six months later, after constantly trying to find out about him, I was told by [t]he Japanese that he was dead. Three years later, after we were released in Manila, I saw for the first time the Chinese teacher who was beaten and given the water treatment the day before Rufus was questioned and he reported to me that on the 25th he was taken from jail back down to the Military Police Headquarters and was beaten again and then was left in a room by himself the rest of the day and that in the afternoon he heard Rufus being questioned in the next room. He heard them beat Rufus for about half an hour while they accused him of being a spy but he did not hear any sound from Rufus until they changed to the handle of the whip which had an iron center and when he heard the heavy sounds coming from striking with this handle he heard Rufus cry out several times for God to help him. Then he heard the Japanese exchanging words in Japanese and by this time Rufus' voice had become weaker and weaker until he was moaning with no words. About this same time of day Rev. Hinderlie said that while he was being beaten he heard someone being given artificial respiration in a nearby room and he believes it was Rufus. This was the last anyone has ever seen or heard of Rufus.

Not long after he was gone from camp I found marked in his Bible some passages of scripture with the dates marked down

which were the only times he had ever put the dates by any markings. When I first read these passages I didn't fully understand them but later when I found out about the treatment the students and our Chinese teacher received I realized that God had, indeed, answered Rufus' cry for help and had delivered him to a far more glorious world than this one. Some of these scriptures are:

Psalm 18:2 (dated Jan. 6, 1942)

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

Psalm 18:17

"He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: FOR THEY WERE TOO STRONG FOR ME." These verses have comforted me more than anything else and the second lesson I learned in camp was to depend only upon God for strength and help. Billy was four and one-half months old when Rufus was killed and for the next three years and a little more we both grew to depend upon God for everything and our prayers were answered in all sorts of ways. There were times when it seemed that everything was dark especially when Billy had dysentery seven times during one year without my being able to get any medicines or proper food for him but finally in various ways I was able to get goats so that he could have goat's milk and to buy some cream of wheat and oatmeal and to raise some food for him in a little garden. Later, I was also ill for eight months in the camp hospital. However, we are both now in perfect health for which I am daily thankful and grateful to God and to all who have been praying for us.

For the first three months in camp we were not allowed to gather together for any purpose and, therefore, were unable to have any church or religious services of any kind. On Easter Sunday of 1942 we were allowed our first service and never again will there be such a service for me. When one of our missionaries sang, "I know My Redeemer Liveth" there wasn't a single pair of dry eyes. This was the third lesson we learned—to appreciate every opportunity to worship the Lord together. So often in life we don't

learn to appreciate what we have until we have to do without. I appreciate everything in life now so much more than I ever did before and I am constantly grateful for the freedom and opportunity to attend church and other services to worship with other Christians.

During the first four months we learned another lesson—to appreciate enough to eat because we were all extremely hungry and never were we filled up during this time. Oftentimes we would have only a cracker or a fourth of a carrot or a banana for our lunch with only rice for breakfast and rice, a few vegetables and a little meat for supper. It is good that we learned to be hungry during these early days because during the last six months of our camp experience we were far hungrier than we thought we were at first. During the last month, January, 1945, when we were in Bilibid Prison in Manila, we had very little else except two servings of corn meal mush each day but we had learned many lessons about being hungry before then and this, together with the knowledge that the American forces were on their way to Manila, kept us going.

In April, 1942, our camp, which numbered about 500 then, was moved from Camp John Hay to Camp Holmes near Baguio and there we remained until Dec. 29, 1944, when the Japanese moved our whole camp to Bilibid Prison in Manila.

“Good Tidings”

FBHS, RFG, III, pp. 108-109.





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September 29, 1945

First Baptist Church  
Fort Pierce, Florida  
Dear Sir:

At the request of Mrs. C.B. Cowherd, formerly Marian Gray, we are sending you our check for \$460.83 in payment of her tithe for the period 1942 through August, 1945. Kindly make

direct acknowledgement to Mrs. Cowherd of this remittance, her address being”

Mrs. C.B. Cowherd  
c/o Chaplain’s Office  
9th Service Command  
Fort Douglas, Utah

Sincerely yours,  
E.P. Buxton

EPB/fro  
Enc.

FBHS, RFG, IV, p. 7.

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First Baptist Church  
Allen W. Graves, Pastor  
Fort Pierce, Florida

Oct. 4, 1945

Mr. E.P. Buxton, Treas.,  
Foreign Mission Board,  
2037 Monument Ave.  
Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of Sept. 29, enclosing check for tithe of Marian Gray, \$460.83. We have written her also at the address you gave.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Homer A. Wilson  
Church Secretary

FBHS, RFG, V, p. 150.

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Ridgecrest, N.C.  
August 6, 1951

Dear Missionary Friends,

It is a joy to announce that final papers are being signed this afternoon for the house, "Mosnell" to become a home for the use of missionaries and foreign students while studying in the U.S. beginning August 15, 1951.

The acquiring of this almost new house consisting of three separate and complete apartments has been an answer to prayer and most of the down payment [h]as been made possible with money which was given by the U.S. government as indemnity to Marian for being interned in the Philippines during the last war. A need has been felt for such a house at Ridgecrest where missionaries could stay at nominal rent and where our Baptist Foreign Students could stay without charge and we pray that our decision to use this money in this way will prove of great benefit to our missionary personnel and foreign students.

Through the kindness of the present owner, Miss Moss, the house will be open for inspection tomorrow afternoon, August 7th, from 3:00 until 6:00 o'clock and all of you are cordially invited to come by to see it as you go to and from the Hatchers' tea. It is located just beside "Park Place" at the back and is reached by the little road between "Park Place" and Dr. Height C. Moore's home or by the road just back of Dr. Moore's home.

We are sorry to miss being with you this afternoon but hoping to see you tomorrow afternoon at the new "Missionary House," we are

Yours in Christ,  
Charles and Marian Cowherd.

FBHS, RFG, V, p. 156.

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Grace Lutheran Church  
Watertown, South Dakota

December 16, 1953

Miss Ione Gray  
The Commission  
Box 5148  
Richmond 20, Va.

Dear Miss Gray:

Fern Harrington has just written me that you would like some information about Rufus Gray who was tortured and killed by the Japanese under the occupation at Baguio in the Philippines. Rufus and I were friends before prison camp. We were down there together by the mere accident of his having the initial G and me the initial H. It was the first Sunday in February the second full month of our occupation of our internment. We had been interned six weeks at this time.

A little of my background with Rufus. Rufus lived just across the street from us. We fixed our Sunday evening ice cream together. We had a lot of fun. We both enjoyed an occasional game of Monopoly and we also had a number of conversations and some debates, of course, on the merits of the Baptists versus the Lutherans. He did come to our prayer meeting which we had amongst us Lutherans. When we had a Bible Camp at the sea shore previously, one which had its original instigation from the Assembly of God folks, they asked me if I would be dean of the camp and organize it because I had been speaking that it would be nice to have a Bible Camp for ourselves for a special retreat for our spiritual needs while we were studying the language. We had usually a few days off between each quarter. We used this time down at the beach immediately beneath us on Lingayen Gulf. We had a wonderful time. I asked Rufus to be the inspirational speaker at the Bible Camp, which he was. I can still remember some of his

illustrations till this day. Rufus was inclined to be impulsive, he was a warm-hearted fellow from the south. I being a brooding Norwegian from the north, appreciated him a good deal for his physical exuberance. We both loved to swim and we were both somewhat expert in it, so we had a lot of fun that way. He also enjoyed photography and had as a hobby which was perhaps the reason for his being in trouble with the Japanese later as many of his pictures were from China and Japan on the way out, and they might have thought there was something more than a hobby in it. This is just by way of conjecture when we have talked about it afterwards. Actually, I think there is a more likely reason why he got into difficulty, and that is his fellowship after the war began with a sinister person in Baguio who was a Jew with a criminal background. He had made over a million dollars on fraudulent contracts with the Army. He admitted that to me in the car on the way out to camp because I said I hoped we would be able to go back to the United States, and he said "Not me, I would end up in Alcatraz." He was married to a Japanese wife who was in with the occupation authorities. She later got her husband out, was able to give him differential treatment in the camp, and I am afraid he may have sold Rufus down the river in order to gain his freedom. So much for that. That is conjecture also and of course cannot be printed in just those terms. But you could mention this fact because it is a fact in the case history. So much for the background with Rufus. I did have hope that out of our fine conversation and good times together in Biblical study we might make a good Lutheran out of him finally! So you can tell we were rosy friends as he was also with the other members of our mission. Actually, he had a lovely wife in Marian and we did enjoy both of them and their baby very much and were frequently back and forth. We were invited over there for dinner and we had them over with us for dinner and so on. So we were the kind of friends that could sup together. In this way I understood him well—his weakness and his strengths both. He had a temper. He was just as quick to forgive again. He was impulsive, but at the same time he was rich and generous in his whole way. How these features in his temperament may have

figured out under his torture I am not sure but I have a few guesses. On the Sunday on which we were tortured we were given a farewell by the camp with a feeling in the camp that the situation had become ominous. I don't want this reported, but I did feel very badly that the first two Baptists to be examined, one the B's and one in the C's, were rather flippant in their conversation, and I mentioned to them when they came back and they were laughing about it and telling how they told the Japanese off, and they had made much of their own personal pacifism and so on, that they may have felt that they came off well but did they remember that there were a lot more of us to come and that this process might get a little tougher for some of us who were coming up later. I felt almost pathetic when the next day when a more finer fellow who ever went out in the mission field, a layman who was a forester going to China with a Red Cross passport now for Chungking recently received before the Japanese occupation, was kept. His name was Roland Flory. You may want to contact him later. He was with one of the Brethren churches. Mr. Flory and I later compared our whole accounts after the Americans came and we could talk freely; we spent one afternoon speaking together just to get the whole thing in order. What happened to him; what happened to me. We found that the situation was very similar so from that we were able to construe that Rufus' treatment was similar and that under it his excitement, his impulsiveness may have led him to some overt act that got him still more physical torture than came to Mr. Flory who did receive the water cure, and who also was informed that Rufus received the water cure. I myself am sure that he received it and that it was under the water cure when the Japanese jumped on him that his intestines burst and he died. Now this is what Mr. Loddigs also believed who was kept a while and had a chance to talk to others while in the jail. So those three of us who were nearest to him in the whole incident and who were all personal friends of his, all of us agree that the nature of his death was under similar circumstances. That is, while he had the water cure the guards jumped on him under some kind of provocation, perhaps being hit by him, and his intestines burst and

so he perished as far as the physical life was concerned.

Now as to the nature of the Sunday itself. It was cold. We had been losing three-quarters of a pound a day average till this time. We shivered even though we were at the seventeenth degree latitude. It was February and we were at 5000 feet. The older missionaries who came down with us who were also in the G's and H's were released after the first preliminary examination. This was merely giving out a routine report on our name, where we were from and so on. It was five hours from that time, which was nine o'clock when these men were released, (we came down at eight o'clock), until two o'clock when the Japs came back again. During this time we were in the company of two Korean guards who seemed very friendly. Rufus being from the south and hospitable and warm in his nature, immediately engaged them in conversation and kept going, practicing his Chinese on them, asking me occasionally for a phrase since my own theoretical knowledge was ahead of his. I sat however in the sunshine of the big windows, rather morose and brooding in my own Norwegian manner and did not enter into the conversation whatever. There was laughter and joking. Only once did I come in on picture when I suggested seeing someone selling peanuts below the window that we had a little money, a few cenavos between us, and would we be permitted to buy a few. The answer was of course 'no.' Rufus having sort of warmed up the atmosphere when they came in and asked which one of us wanted to go first, he was sitting next to the door, the guards were with him and I said 'Well, you have made friends with them Rufus, you might as well go in. I'll come in after.' That was the last comment I made to him. Neither one of us expecting of course that this was our last word together. We did not take time for prayer though certainly both of us were in the spirit of meditation even as we were talking to the guards or when we were musing in our own thoughts. We knew almost anything could happen. Flory had not returned the previous day and we did not know what had happened to him. The only indication that I have after that is that I went into the wrong room when they called for me later and a Chinese was being tortured there by the name of Mr. Lee and he

has given you some information, of course. After my second meeting from the Japanese I was left alone for some time and I heard them counting in the next room in a method that sounded like artificial respiration to me. At least that was my thought at that time and I thought that evidently Rufus has been knocked out or gone under the torture and they are trying to bring him to. That was my own personal registry at the time and what I said when I came back later, that I was afraid when he wasn't there that he had been given a rough time. However, when they came back at me again I thought maybe that was imagination—it might have been Mr. Lee and that Rufus perhaps had already gone back to camp. When I had been given my third beating, to my own surprise I was released. I did not get the water cure. The guards took me back to the room, I washed the blood off my face and back as best I could, I started to bleed again so I looked kind of a mess when they did bring me back to camp. I did think when they brought me out to the car that I was being brought to another prison, and it was a surprise to me that I was brought back to camp. It was a bigger surprise when I got back to find that Rufus was not there.

The shock of the first beating is what makes me worried about Rufus. I did not expect it. It came out of the blue air. They told me that "Mr. Gray has said that ninety-five percent of all missionaries are spys." I said I don't know what Mr. Gray has said but it is not true. I said missionaries are not spys and we have no relationship to the government in America, and I said we definitely believe in the separation of church and state, and I said very much so as far as we Lutherans are concerned. I wished I had said Baptists too because you are even worse. (As far as I am concerned I would just as soon be on Social Security.) Anyway that for that. Then we discussed a little bit more. He said did I believe that God loved the Japanese. I said yes, as much as the Americans. He said "you lie." I said "No, that's a fact." He said "Would you have gone to the Japanese." I said "Certainly, if I had been sent. We had other Lutherans who were there." He said "You lie" and with that he lashed out at me with a whip I had not seen before,--two whips at the end of a bamboo pole. This treatment we all got. He kept on



lashing me about the head and shoulders until he could not stand up and then he sat down. I would guess I got around forty-five strokes in all. The long whip would beat around your head and then lash back at your shoulders. This was the first of three beatings that I received. I could see how somebody impulsive, who more likely expected a different treatment from his friendliness with the guard, might have reacted with physical reaction at that time. That could be possible. At the same time I may not have gotten as much as Rufus because they were scared after they had taken out their wrath on him and I got less when I came in. They were very excited all the while. My own opinion is that they did not expect Rufus to die. The reasons for doing it, that the devil alone knows together with our Lord. Certainly I felt like the devil was in the man. He was abusing me not for my American citizenship but because I was a Christian and for my Christian faith. It was for this that Rufus also died. I think we should not obscure that fact. He was as much a martyr to his faith as the early Christians. That there may have been some additional provocation on his part is possible. However when we read stories of the martyrs they were not so slow to speak back at times either, and I am sure he gave a full confession for his faith, and, as such, was treated with physical punishment.

Sincerely yours,  
Carroll Hinderlie

Why not all treated in this manner? It is a mystery in all such matters isn't it?

He was a warm beautiful, charming person. Biblically preaching sin and grace.

SBC, IMB, pp. 52-56.

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April 18, 1944  
Richmond, Virginia  
FMB

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ORIENT

-Dr. M.T. Rankin

The most significant development in connection with our work in the Orient which has occurred since the October meeting of the Board is the return in December of thirty-nine of our missionaries from Japanese controlled areas. Of the eighty-eight missionaries of our Board who were interned by the Japanese seventy-nine are now in America. In our rejoicing over these who have come home, we must not forget, however, that eight adults and one child are still in the hands of the Japanese. Miss Elizabeth Hale, at her own choice, remained in Shanghai. Seven adults and one child are in the Philippine Islands: Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Culpepper, Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Dyer, Mrs. R.F. Gray, Billy Gray, Miss Fern Harrington and Miss Cleo Morrison.

Information concerning these people which was brought by those who returned in December gives us some assurance as to their health and general condition. As we have prayed in the past for all of those who were interned, let us continue to pray for those who have not yet come back.

One of the eighty-eight missionaries, the Reverend Rufus F. Gray, has followed his Master to the extent of death, even the death of – we know now what. He died between January and March, 1942, while being held by the Japanese military police. No information has been secured as to the precise cause of his death.

Mr. and Mrs. Gray were appointed missionaries of the Board on April 10, 1940. They were sent to Peking to study the Chinese language and were transferred to the Philippine Islands when the language school was moved there in 1941 because of war conditions in China.

The Foreign Mission Board mourns the tragic death of this, our missionary. At the same time, we are conscious of the honor of having had as an appointee one who offered up his life in the service of God. In these days, when so many thousands are giving their lives in service to their country, Rufus Gray has demonstrated that there are those who will give no less allegiance to their Lord.

FBHS, RFG, IV, p. 1.



Mrs. Coyle Gray,  
Mother of Rufus



Mrs. Coyle Gray,  
Rufus and sisters Olga  
and Charlene



Rufus at three years



Rufus, age four and  
Charlene, age 5

## Rufus as a student





Rufus and Marian  
wedding picture,  
May 10, 1939



Marian Peeler  
in wedding dress



Dale Moody  
was best man



W. O. Carver  
performed wedding  
ceremony



Rufus and Marian  
in port at San Francisco



Rufus and Marian in  
San Francisco, enroute to  
China, September, 1940.



Rufus and Marian in front  
of East Hostel in Peking,  
December 15, 1940



Marian, Mrs. Lancaster  
and friend,  
January 17, 1941



Rufus Gray  
in Peking,  
January, 1941



Rufus and Marian  
at Chefoo, China,  
April, 1941



A group of Southern Baptist missionaries in Baguio,  
summer 1941. L. to R. Ruth and Hugo Culpepper,  
Mary and Bob Dyer, Cleo Morrison, Eloise Cauthen,  
Rufus and Marian Gray, Fern Harrington, Grace Wilson.

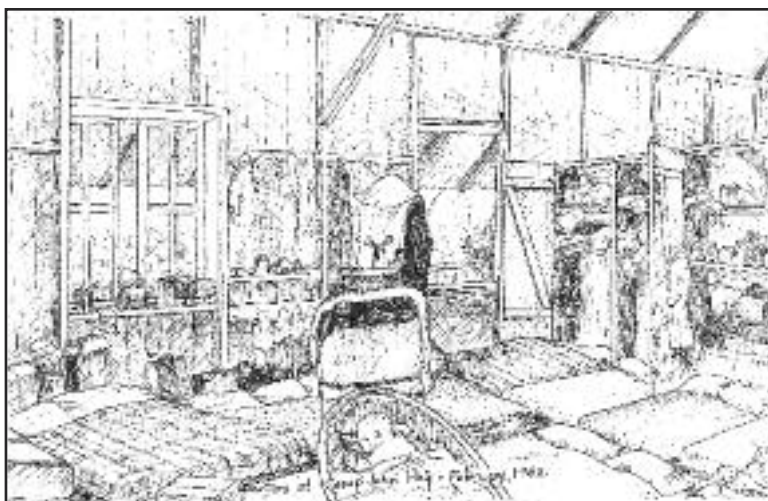




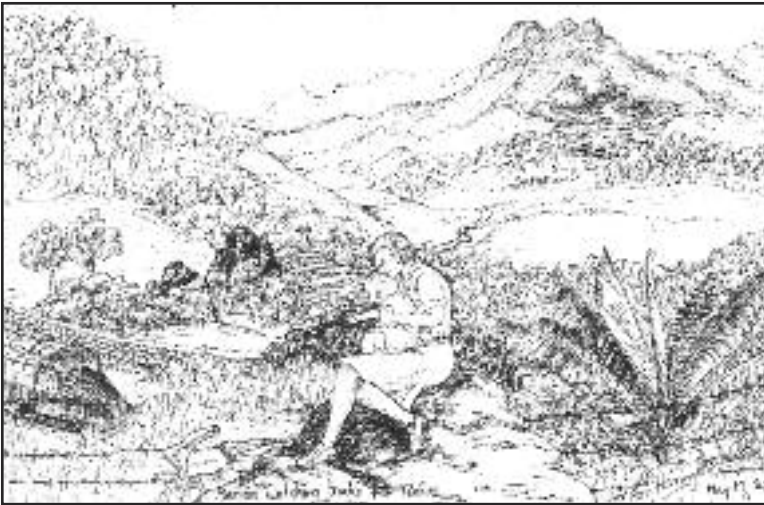
Rufus with son Billy,  
September, 1941



Rufus and Marian with  
son Billy, 1941



Fern Harrington drawing of Camp John Hay quarters. Bed  
for Cleo Morrison, Fern Harrington, Mary Dyer and Ruth  
Culpepper between the windows. Billy Gray's bassinet at  
the right in the closet, in 1942.



Fern Harrington drawing of Marian in 1942, sitting on a rock, near the road, with Billy. Marian had observed some Japanese trucks with American drivers and spent every spare moment hoping to see Rufus as one of the drivers.



Prisoners moved to Camp Holmes,  
near Baguio, April 22, 1942



Mothers and their babies in Camp Holmes,  
September 8, 1943. Marian holds Billy  
in a dark suit on the front row.



Marian and Billy,  
September 8, 1943  
in Camp Holmes



Fern Harrington and Cleo Morrison with Don Marsh (L) and Dick Bentley (R). These G.I.s helped liberate them in February, 1945.



Rokuro Tomibe with his family in Kyoto, Japan, December, 1955. Rokuro was the favorite camp commandant of the missionaries.



Fern Harrington Miles with her two camp babies, Bill Gray (L) and Peter Collyer (R). Picture taken on St. Simon's Island, Georgia, April, 1986.



Bill Gray and Jerry Windsor, picture taken October 24, 2007.

## **Rufus Franklin Gray Timeline**

Birth-Born in Titusville, FL, June 3, 1915.

Baptism-February 3, 1925.

Church Home-FBC, Fort Pierce.

Graduated High School-Fort Pierce High, May 25, 1934.

Call to Missions-Summer, 1934

Met Marian Peeler-1934.

College Graduation-Furman University (B.A.), August 19, 1937.

Ordained-June 1, 1938, FBC, Highland Park, Louisville.

Marriage Date-May 10, 1939.

Seminary Graduation-Southern Baptist Theological Seminary,  
Louisville, KY, May 3, 1940.

Appointment by SBC Foreign Mission Board-April 10, 1940.

Set sail for China-September 4, 1940.

Arrived in China-September 29, 1940.

Arrival at language school in Baguio, Philippines-

March 29 or 30, 1941

Birth of Billy-September 8, 1941.

Last known letter from Rufus-November 28, 1941.

Internment at Camp John Hay-December 29, 1941.

Death of Rufus-January 25, 1942.

Prison Memorial Service for Rufus-August 2, 1942.

Moved to Camp Holmes-April 28, 1942, near Baguio

Moved to Bilibid Prison in Manila-December 29, 1944.

Marian and Billy released from prison-February 4, 1945.

Marian and Billy arrive back in USA-May 2, 1945.

## Acknowledgments

This journal was totally dependent. There are some primary sources that must be identified with personal appreciation. The photographs by Rufus Gray were indispensable.

The scrupulous diary of Natalie Crouter produced *Forbidden Diary*, a cornerstone source.

Fern Harrington Miles in *Captive Community* kept the Southern Baptist narrative intact. The Southern Baptist Convention International Mission Board letters were like a golden thread for the 1,000 days. The IMB source fleshed out some details we would not have known otherwise.

The primary sources of letters, cards and artifacts that came from the hands of Rufus and Marian Gray were wonderful sources of faith, courage and commitment. There were a few times when words had to be assumed by the editor in that notes by Rufus and Marian were scribbled on odd pieces of paper. Marian wrote on paper from prison in small size script, and on the front and back of the same piece of paper. Editorial insertions and assumptions are relatively few and never changed the context or intent of the document. The citations in books and journals of various sources were not consistent. As best we could we followed the original documents.

The valuable prison camp life sketches of Fern Harrington Miles are a stark and detailed reminder of daily regimen and imprisonment. Fern was a gifted artist and illustrator.

There were individual and primary items and artifacts donated to the Florida Baptist Historical Society by Virginia Love and Dr. William Gilman Gray. This journal would not have been possible without their personal donations and trust.

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## Florida Baptist Historical Society 2016 Budget

Salary-FBHS Director	19,200
FBHS Secretary Salary	12,000
Secretary FICA	1,000
Postage	500
Promotional Items	500
Journal Publication	2,000
Travel-Sec-Treasurer	3,000
Annual Meetings	9,000
Office Supplies	500
Storage Supplies	500
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Website Operations	100
Microfilm	<u>1,200</u>
	\$50,000

# Church Anniversary Celebrations in 2016

## 175

Concord, Greenville  
First Callahan (formerly Sharon)  
First Monticello

## 150

Calvary, Clearwater  
First Lake City  
First Plant City  
New Zion, Ona

## 125

Billory, Navarre  
Blake Memorial, Lake Helen  
First Cedar Key  
First Dade City  
First Longwood

## 100

Bee Ridge, Sarasota  
First Eagle Lake  
First Lake Wales  
First Satsuma  
Hasty Pond, Marianna  
Mt. Olive, Plant City  
Riverside, Fort Myers  
Russell, Green Cove Springs

## 75

Goodhope, Baker  
Lebanon, Plant City  
New Bethel, Jay  
New Home, Perry  
Southside, Bradenton

## 50

Calvary, Crestview  
Dorcas, Crestview  
First Florida City  
First Rockledge  
Grace Point, Fort Lauderdale  
Layton Community  
Mill Creek, Bradenton  
Ochlockonee Bay, Panacea  
Palmdale  
University, Orlando

## 25

Central Parkway, Orlando  
El Camino, Orlando  
Fellowship, Valrico  
First Casselberry  
First Haitian Lakeland  
Highlands, Weeki Wachee  
Monteocha, Gainesville  
Mt. Hermon, Sunrise  
North Oak, Citrus Springs  
Northwest Community, Tampa  
Sampson City, Starke  
Trinity, Punta Gorda

# Church Anniversary Celebrations in 2017

## 175

Aenon, Tallahassee

## 150

Concord, Chiefland  
Jonesville, Newberry

## 125

CityGate formerly Fort Myers  
First  
First, Palmetto  
First, Quincy  
First, St. Petersburg  
Mary Belle, Live Oak  
Mt. Olive, Bascom  
Mt. Olive, Live Oak

## 100

East Chelsea, Tampa  
First, Bagdad  
First, Crestview  
First, Lake Alfred  
First, Vero Beach  
Gully Springs, Bonifay

## 75

Collins Chapel, Malone  
Eastside, Milton  
Eastside, Plant City  
Ensley, Pensacola  
First, Wabasso  
Heckscher Drive, Jacksonville  
Midway, Palatka

## 50

Buchanan, Tampa  
Christ Memorial, Lakeland  
Elwood Park, Bradenton  
Faith, Tallahassee  
First, Panama City Beach

First, South Daytona  
Gateway, Blountstown  
Hernando Beach First  
Lakeview, Delray Beach  
Living Faith, Crestview  
New Hope, Gainesville  
North Palm, Hialeah  
North Peninsula, Ormond Beach  
Oak Harbor, Atlantic Beach  
Oakland, Fort Walton Beach  
One Hundred Third Street,  
Jacksonville  
Southside, Brandon  
Suwannee

## 25

Church at Viera, Melbourne  
Clay Community, Orange Park  
Countryside, Ocala  
Crescent Beach, St. Augustine  
Family of God, Panama City  
First, Poinciana  
Grand Island  
Island Chapel, Tierra Verde  
Maranatha, Hialeah  
Misionera, Miami  
Mt. Hope Fellowship, Miami  
New Beginnings, Crestview  
New Hope, Hudson  
Northside, Lakeland  
Pines, Pembroke Pines  
Renaissance Evangelical, Fort  
Lauderdale  
Rima Ridge, Ormond Beach  
Salem Evangelical, Miami  
Shindler Drive, Jacksonville  
Sparta Road, Sebring  
Sugarloaf, Summerland Key  
Treasure Coast Community,  
Jensen Beach  
Westside, Bunnell

## **Heritage Award Recipients**

1997	Earl Joiner
1998	Adolph Bedsole
1999	Joe Bamberg
2000	Ruth Bagwell
2001	John C. Hillhouse
2002	Martha Trotter
2003	Wiley Richards
2004	Edwin B. Browning, Sr.
2005	Edwin H. Rennolds, Sr.
2006	Harry Crawford Garwood
2007	Pope Duncan
2008	John L. Rosser
2009	Doak Campbell
2010	Judith Richbourg Jolly
2011	Jack Dalton
2012	James Bryant
2013	David Elder
2014	Mark Rathel
2015	No recipient
2016	David Raul Lema, Jr. Roger Richards

## **Don Hepburn Best Journal Article Award Recipients**

2014	Roger Richards
2015	Don Hepburn

## **Florida Baptist Historical Society Endowment**

In 2015, the Florida Baptist Historical Society created an endowment fund for the express purpose of supporting the Florida Baptist Historical Society and its work. Specific ministries of the society include collection, preservation, publication and interpretation of Florida Southern Baptist materials. The society serves the local church by offering assistance in research, writing and publication of local church documentaries and histories. The society maintains over 3,000 Florida Baptist church files and more than 2,000 biographical sketches of past and present Florida Southern Baptist leaders. The endowment funds may also be used to help sponsor society meetings and Florida Baptist topical research. Funds may be used to reimburse research costs and society special events. Gifts to this fund are tax deductible and all checks may be made out to the Florida Baptist Historical Society Endowment Fund. The motto and goal of the Florida Baptist Historical Society is to honor those who honor Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.



