

Rowland, Jack, Jr. (1927-2002) was born in Lake County, Florida the son of Jack, Sr. and Lessie Walker Rowland. He was ordained by Green Pond Baptist Church, 1950. Rowland graduated from the Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville. He served as pastor of Richland Baptist Church, Zephyrhills, West Frostproof Baptist Church, Polk County, Lovedale Baptist Church, Bascom, Astatula Baptist Church, Lake County 1957-1960, Lady Lake Baptist Church, Lake Pierce Baptist Church, Lake Wales and First Baptist Church, Hernando Beach. Rowland and his wife, Vera Elizabeth Britt Rowland had two sons. Visit our website floridabaptisthistory.org

Jack Rowland, Jr.

Pastor, Richland Baptist Church, 1950



Jack Rowland, Jr., son of Jack Rowland, Sr. and Lessie (Walker) Rowland, was born October 10, 1927, in Lake County, Florida. On March 20, 1946, he enlisted in the U.S. Army at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Georgia, for service in World War II. He "came home from service in 1947, accepted Christ and felt the call to the ministry shortly afterwards." On July 8, 1949, at Lone Oak Baptist Church in Turkey Creek, Hillsborough County, Florida, he married Vera Elizabeth Britt, born November 1928 in Florida, daughter of Wesley Lee Britt and Lucille (Fryer) Britt. Jack and Vera Rowland were parents of two sons, Larry J. Rowland (1951-1990) and Lloyd E. Rowland.

Jack Rowland, Jr. first appeared in records of Richland Baptist Church on September 7, 1949, when he was assisting the church as supply pastor in the absence of Rev. Morgan M. Hughes, regular pastor. He continued in

that capacity for several months. On April 5, 1950, the church "unanimously voted on and all present pledged to cooperate with Bro. Rowland" when he was called as pastor for the remainder of the associational year. On May 10, 1950, a "motion was made and carried to request the Green Pond Church to arrange for the ordination service of Bro. Jack Rowland, Jr. who had been called to serve our church."

Rev. Rowland received \$10 per week as his salary and led services in the old wooden building. He encouraged church repairs and continued the building fund emphasis. He also scheduled a two-week revival at Richland which began August 7, 1950, with Bro. Thomas Felton O'Steen of Eloise, Polk County, as evangelist. In the September 10, 1950, business conference, the church extended a call to Rev. Rowland to serve as pastor for the coming year. However, he advised the church that he could stay only until the end of that month.

Rev. Rowland later pastored West Frostproof Baptist Church in Polk County, and while there, per Mrs. Rowland, "we felt the call for him to enter school. We entered Baptist Bible Institute (now The Baptist College of Florida) in 1955, graduating in 1957." He pastored Lovedale Baptist Church in Bascom, Jackson County, and Astatula Baptist Church, Lake County, where he is remembered as "a great pastor" and one who "helped many people." He served Lady Lake Baptist Church, Lake County, and Lake Pierce Baptist Church in Lake Wales, Polk County. His last pastorate was First Baptist Church of Hernando Beach, where he served "until God called him home."

Rev. Jack Rowland, Jr. died February 12, 2002, in Brooksville, Florida. He was laid to rest in Oaklawn Cemetery, Plant City, Florida, where a military marker gives honor to his valor and sacrifice. Mrs. Rowland moved to Texas, where son Lloyd E. Rowland lives, and she resides there today.

HISTORY OF THE LADY LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

The exact date and details of the organization of the Lady Lake Baptist Church is not known. It is believed to have been organized in 1882, under the name of Equity Baptist Church, and was located about one mile East of the present location. Mrs. R. D. Mathews of Fruitland Park remembers a church of this name, at this location.

The present church auditorium was started June 10th, 1884. The late Mr. E. H. Reynolds made this notation in his diary dated June 10th, 1884, "today the first lumber was piled for building the church", but no further mention of how long the building was in progress. Mr. Reynolds owned a sawmill near Lady Lake and cut and prepared the lumber to build the church.

Through the years the records have been destroyed, and nothing is known of the early activities of the church, nor of it's first pastor. It is presumed that services were continued in the Equity Church until this church building was completed. When the name was changed, or when the building was first occupied is not known. However, from information obtained from the Organizational Minute of the Lake County Baptist Association it is known that the Lady Lake Baptist Church was included as a charter member of the Association coming from the Alachua Association with an enrollment of 30 members with J. H. Martin as Pastor.

For many years the church had only morning services on the first and third Sunday of each month. On October 19, 1947, the church voted to have two services on the first and third Sunday of each month. Rev. V. A. Higgs was Pastor at that time and his salary was \$40.00 per month. On December 26th, 1948, the church started having full time services. Rev. H. W. High was pastor and his salary was \$10.00 each Sunday.

The present pastorium was built about the same time as the church, 75 or 80 years ago. For many years it was the home of Mrs. L. N. Withers. Mrs. Withers deeded the house to the church for use as a pastorium after her death. In April, 1930, the church came into possession of the house and has been using it as a home for their pastors. Even though the house is old, it is quite comfortable.

An educational building, under the leadership of Rev. Bob Carnes, was started in May, 1957. This building is located just behind the auditorium and consists of eight class rooms, a pastor's study, kitchen (not complete) and two rest rooms.

There is no complete list of the pastors who have faithfully served the Lady Lake Church, but have the following incomplete list:

No record-----	1882-1923	Rev. W. P. Wheeler-----	1941-1943
Rev. J. H. Martin-----	1924-1925	Rev. L. B. Johnson-----	1944
No record-----	1926	Rev. J. W. Johnson-----	1945-1946
Rev. R. J. Blackmon-----	1928-1929	Rev. V. A. Higgs-----	1947
Rev. L. W. Simmons-----	1930	Rev. H. W. High-----	1948
Rev. H. B. Reynolds-----	1931	Rev. Eugene Baxley-----	1949-1950
Rev. J. B. Webb-----	1932	Rev. Hoke Shirely, Jr.---	1951-1953
No record-----	1933	Rev. T. M. Pinner-----	1953
Rev. G. Brant-----	1934-1935	Rev. George Painter-----	1954-1955
No record-----	1936-1938	Rev. Wayne Chastain-----	1955
Rev. M. E. Brantley-----	1939	Rev. Bob Carnes-----	1956-1958
Rev. W. Lavender-----	1940	Rev. Page Williams-----	1958-1960
		Rev. Jack Rowland, Jr.--	1960-

Jack Rowland Obituary

1927 - 2002

Rev. Jack Rowland Jr., 74, of Weeki Wachee, Florida, who pastored Southern Baptist churches throughout Florida, passed away on Tuesday, February 12, 2002. The family will receive friends on Thursday, February 14, 2002, 6-8 p.m., at Brewer & Sons Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, 280 Mariner Boulevard, Spring Hill, Florida. Funeral services are scheduled for Friday, February 15, 10 a.m., at First Baptist Church of Hernando Beach. Interment will be on Friday, 1 p.m., at Old Oaklawn Cemetery, Plant City, Florida. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations are appreciated to First Baptist Church of Hernando Beach Building Fund, 4446 Shoal Line Boulevard, Hernando Beach, FL 34607. Arrangements entrusted to Brewer & Sons Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, Spring Hill, Florida.

JACK ROWLAND, JR.

Jack Rowland, Jr. (1927-2002) served as pastor of Astatula Baptist Church, 1957-1960.

Source:

Florida Baptist Historical Society files.