

KENNETH OWEN WHITE COLLECTION

AR 169



Kenneth Owen White, Atlantic City

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Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
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Kenneth Owen White Collection

AR 169

Summary

Main Entry: Kenneth Owen White Collection

Date Span: 1954 – 1965

Abstract: Dr. Kenneth Owen White was president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the General Baptist Convention of Texas. The collection addresses theological and civil rights issues such as the Genesis controversy and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and also includes material on his participation in the Japanese Baptist New Life Movement. Correspondence forms the bulk of the collection.

Size: One linear ft. (two document boxes)

Collection #: AR 169

Biographical Sketch

Kenneth Owen White was President of the Southern Baptist Convention, from 1963 – 1964, and President of the General Baptist Convention of Texas, from 1962 – 1964. During his simultaneous presidencies, Dr. White continued to pastor First Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. Other denominational involvement included serving on the Home Mission Board, Radio Commission, and Executive Board of the General Baptist Convention of Texas.

Dr. White was a prominent figure in the early 1960s and played an active role in several controversial issues. He objected to *The Message of Genesis* (1962) by Ralph Elliott, who was then a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Based on his conviction that the work denied the historicity of Genesis, Dr. White campaigned successfully for Dr. Elliott's removal from the seminary. Shortly after his election as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. White became embroiled in a civil rights controversy after rejecting a black student's request to join First Baptist Church, Houston. Dr. White and other church leaders believed that the request was motivated only to promote the church integration campaign led by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), who picketed the church following the denial. In 1965, the church passed a policy to remain segregated, and Dr. White accepted a position to become Metropolitan Missions Coordinator in Los Angeles, California.

Dr. White held pastorates in California, Georgia, Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, and Washington, D. C. He was born in 1902, in London, England, and moved to British Columbia as a child. He entered the United States in 1921 and married Pearl in 1926. The Whites had two children, Stanley and Ruth. He received his Bachelor of Arts from

the University of Louisville and his Master of Theology and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. White died July 12, 1985 in Tuscon, Arizona.

Scope and Content Note

The Kenneth Owen White Collection (1954 – 1965) contains one linear foot of material in two document boxes. The collection includes articles, clippings, correspondence, sermons, and pamphlets and is arranged alphabetically by subject.

The collection covers Dr. White's tenure as president of both the Southern Baptist Convention and the General Baptist Convention of Texas and his pastorate at First Baptist Church, Houston. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically, and additional correspondence can be found in the subject files. Dr. White communicated with many prominent Baptist leaders, including Baker James Cauthen, W. A. Criswell, Wayne Dehoney, Herschel Hobbs, James W. Merritt, Louie D. Newton, Porter Routh, and James L. Sullivan, and national figures such as Lyndon B. Johnson.

The subjects covered in the collection relate to either civil rights or theological issues. Civil rights issues addressed include the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the membership controversy at First Baptist Church, Houston. The theological issues relate to liberalism in Southern Baptist schools and particularly Dr. White's role in the Genesis or Ralph Elliott controversy. The collection also includes information regarding Dr. White's involvement in the Japanese Baptist New Life Movement.

Additional information regarding the Genesis controversy is available in the Ralph Elliott Controversy Collection (AR 149). An oral memoir for Dr. White is available at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives both in transcript and audio formats (BX 6495.W55 1996 and R262t Whi).

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by folder title

Provenance

Preferred Citation

Kenneth Owen White Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Criswell, Wallie Amos, 1909 – 2002
 Dehoney, William Wayne, 1918 – 2007
 Hobbs, Herschel Harold, 1907 – 1995
 McClellan, Albert, 1912 – 2004

Newton, Louis DeVotie, 1892 – 1986
 Routh, Porter Wroe, 1911 – 1987
 Sullivan, James Lenox, 1910 –
 Elliott, Ralph H., 1925 –
 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
 Japan Baptist New Life Movement
 Race relations
 Civil rights
 Church controversies – Baptists

Related Materials

Oral history interview of K.O. Owen. Interviewed by Ron Tonks. R262t. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Introduction to Collection
- 1.2 Addresses & Articles
- 1.3 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs
- 1.4 Baptist World Alliance
- 1.5 Biographical Information
- 1.6 Boy Scouts, May – December, 1963
- 1.7 Civil Rights Bill, 1964
- 1.8 Clippings
- 1.9 Correspondence – A-F
- 1.10 Correspondence – G-L
- 1.11 Correspondence – M-R
- 1.12 Correspondence – S-Z
- 1.13 Correspondence – Autrey, C. E., 1964
- 1.14 Correspondence – Bagley, George E., 1965
- 1.15 Correspondence – Binkley, Olin T., 1963
- 1.16 Correspondence – Boatwright, Roy E., 1964
- 1.17 Correspondence – Boddie, Charles E., 1964
- 1.18 Correspondence – Brantley, Rabun L., 1963
- 1.19 Correspondence – Brown, Ben, 1963
- 1.20 Correspondence – Burton, Joe W., 1964
- 1.21 Correspondence – Cantrell, J. C., 1962
- 1.22 Correspondence – Carlson, C. Emanuel, 1962
- 1.23 Correspondence – Cauthen, Baker James, 1962
- 1.24 Correspondence – Coggins, Ross, 1964
- 1.25 Correspondence – Criswell, W. A., 1951 – 1964
- 1.26 Correspondence – Daley, C. R., 1964
- 1.27 Correspondence – Dehoney, Wayne, 1963 – 1964
- 1.28 Correspondence – Estep, W. R. Jr., 1964
- 1.29 Correspondence – Fallis, William J., 1963

- 1.30 Correspondence – Freeman, C. Wade, 1964
- 1.31 Correspondence – Garrsion, Searcy S., 1964
- 1.32 Correspondence – Grant, J. Marse (*Biblical Recorder* Editor), 1964
- 1.33 Correspondence – Graves, Harold K., 1963
- 1.34 Correspondence – Grindstaff, W. E., 1964
- 1.35 Correspondence – Helvey, James Jr., 1964
- 1.36 Correspondence – Hobbs, Herschel H., 1964
- 1.37 Correspondence – Hull, William E., 1964
- 1.38 Correspondence – Johnson, Lyndon B., 1962
- 1.39 Correspondence – Johnson, W. Charles, 1963
- 1.40 Correspondence – Leavell, Roland Q., 1957 – 1963
- 1.41 Correspondence – Lee, Dallas P., 1964
- 1.42 Correspondence – Lindsay, Homer G., 1964
- 1.43 Correspondence – McClellan, Albert, 1964
- 1.44 Correspondence – McGinty, H. H., 1964
- 1.45 Correspondence – Meadows, Robert Dean, 1963
- 1.46 Correspondence – Merritt, James W., 1964
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- 1.48 Correspondence – Newton, Louie D., 1964
- 1.49 Correspondence – Patterson, T. A., 1964
- 1.50 Correspondence – Pearson, G. P., 1953
- 1.51 Correspondence – Quarles, Chester L., 1964
- 1.52 Correspondence – Redford, Courts, 1964
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- 1.54 Correspondence – Richardson, J. Milton, 1962 – 1965
- 1.55 Correspondence – Robertson, James T., 1963
- 1.56 Correspondence – Routh, Porter, 1964
- 1.57 Correspondence – Rusk, Dean, 1964
- 1.58 Correspondence – Schroeder, George W., 1964
- 1.59 Correspondence – Southard, Samuel, 1963
- 1.60 Correspondence – Sullivan, James L., 1964
- 1.61 Correspondence – Zondervan, P. J., 1963

Box 2

- 2.1 Foreign Mission Board
- 2.2 Houston – First Baptist Church
- 2.3 Japan – New Life Movement, 1963
- 2.4 Little Rock, Arkansas – First Baptist Church
- 2.5 Miscellaneous
- 2.6 New Salem, Kentucky – Baptist Church
- 2.7 Pamphlets
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- 2.11 Southern Baptist Convention – Atlantic City, 1964
- 2.12 Southern Baptist Convention – Committee on Committees

- 2.13 Southern Baptist Convention – Committee on Order of Business
- 2.14 Southern Baptist Convention – Committee on Resolutions
- 2.15 Southern Baptist Convention – Executive Committee
- 2.16 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary – Establishment Testimony by B. H. Carroll
- 2.17 Texas Baptist Convention Presidency, 1962 – 1963
- 2.18 Theological Liberalism, May, 1963 (1 of 2)
- 2.19 Theological Liberalism, May, 1963 (2 of 2)
- 2.20 Washington, D. C. – Metropolitan Baptist Church