

**JAMES T. DRAPER, JR.**

**PAPERS**

**AR 607**



**Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives**

**1988**

**Updated February, 2012**

# James T. Draper, Jr. Papers

## AR 607

### Summary

Main Entry: James T. Draper, Jr. Papers

Date Span: 1982 – 1984

Abstract: A Southern Baptist pastor, writer, and denominational leader, James T. Draper, Jr. served as President of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1982 – 1984. He was viewed as a conservative. The Papers relate to Draper's tenure as President of the SBC. Included are correspondence, clippings, photographs, documents, and articles covering a wide range of social, political, and theological issues.

Size: 4 linear ft. (4 boxes)

Collection #: AR 607

### Biographical Sketch

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1935      | Born October 10, 1935 in Hartford, Arkansas, son of James T. (a minister) and Lois (Keeling) Draper. |
| 1956      | Ordained Southern Baptist minister.  |
| 1956      | Married Carol Ann Floyd, July 14, 1956; children: Randy, Bailey, Terri.                              |
| 1956 – 58 | Pastor of Baptist church in Bryan, TX.   |
| 1958      | Graduated from Baylor University, B.A.   |
| 1958 – 61 | Pastor of Baptist church in Iredell, TX.   |
| 1961      | Graduated Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, B.D.  |
| 1961 – 62 | Pastor of Baptist church in Tyler, TX.   |
| 1962 – 65 | Pastor of Baptist church in San Antonio, TX.   |
| 1965 – 70 | Pastor of Baptist church in Kansas City, MO.   |
| 1970 – 73 | Pastor of Del City Baptist Church, Del City, OK.   |
| 1973 – 75 | Associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, TX.  |

- 1973                    Graduated Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, M.D.
- 1975 – 1991         Pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, TX.
- 1975                    Received honorary D.D. degree from Howard Payne University
- 1982 – 84            Elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention. Re-elected in 1983 for a second term. Draper was viewed as a conservative and his election as president appeared as a victory for the conservative wing of the denomination.

Books authored by James T. Draper, Jr.:

- 1974            The Church Christ Approves.
- 1975            Say, Neighbor, Your House Is On Fire
- 1976            Hebrews: The Life That Pleases God
- 1977            Proverbs: The Secret of Beautiful Living
- 1978            Titus: Patterns for Church Living
- 1979            I and II Thessalonians: The Hope of a Waiting Church
- 1979            Foundations of Biblical Faith
- 1983            The Conscience of a Nation
- 1983            Discover Joy: Studies in Philippians
- 1983            Faith That Works: Studies in James
- 1984            Authority: The Critical Issue for Southern Baptists

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection of papers (4 linear feet) consists of the presidential files of Dr. Draper during his two terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1982 – 1984. The papers consist mainly of correspondence and some informational documents. The correspondence covers a wide range of social, political and theological issues, as well as letters relating to the operation of the denomination.

The collection documents the many issues of interest to Southern Baptists, including Lebanon and the Middle East, abortion, women's role in the church, women's ordination, creedal statement, liberalism in Baptist higher education, school prayer, creationism, fundamentalism, the inerrancy debate, and nuclear disarmament. Also included is reaction to the policies and positions of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The collection documents some of the theological debates within the Southern Baptist Convention between fundamentalists and moderates. Much of the dispute was based on the belief of the inerrancy of the Bible and the selection of Baptists to various denominational boards, committees, and commissions.

The collection is arranged in much the same manner that it was developed by Dr. Draper. The files are alphabetical, with most of the letters grouped alphabetically. The papers include subject type files on the Baptist Joint Committee, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, etc. There are

files on various Convention components, such as the Executive Committee and the Resolutions Committee. Of special interest is the file on the "summit" meeting of denominational leaders to discuss the "political activity, theological differences, and other difficulties in the Southern Baptist Convention." The meeting was held November, 1982. Also included in the papers are numerous congratulatory letters on his election as president, as well as letters of invitations to speak. A folder of strange, nonsensical letters is also found in the papers. The papers are open to researchers.

### **Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by folder title

### **Provenance**

Donated by Jimmy Draper, 1984.

### **Preferred Citation**

James T. Draper, Jr. Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Dunn, James  
 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs  
 Southern Baptist Convention  
 Ordination of women  
 Fundamentalism

### **Container List**

#### **Box 1**

- 1.1 A – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 1.2 A – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 1.3 Africa Trip, April, 1984 – Itineraries and Correspondence
- 1.4 Ampac “summit” meeting
- 1.5 Anonymous Letters and Articles
- 1.6 “Authority” Book – Correspondence, Dec., 1983 – Jan., 84
- 1.7 B – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 1.8 B – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 1.9 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Correspondence, and Articles
- 1.10 Baptist World Alliance – Correspondence
- 1.11 Biographical
- 1.12 C – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 1.13 C – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 1.14 Committee on Committees, 1982 – 83
- 1.15 Committee on Committees, 1983 – 84
- 1.16 Congratulatory Letters, 1983
- 1.17 Congratulatory Letters, 1983

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- 2.1 Congratulatory Letters, 1984
- 2.2 Creedal Statement, Nov., 1983 – Jan., 1984
- 2.3 D – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 2.4 D – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 2.5 E – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 2.6 E – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 2.7 Executive Committee – SBC Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 2.8 Executive Committee, 1983 – 84
- 2.9 F – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 2.10 F – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 2.11 Foreign Mission Board – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
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- 2.13 Frazier, Claude – Materials and Letters, 1982 – 83
- 2.14 G – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 2.15 G – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 2.16 H – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 2.17 H – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 2.18 Home Mission Board – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 2.19 Home Mission Board – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 2.20 I – Correspondence, 1982 – 84
- 2.21 Invitations Declined, 1982 – 83
- 2.22 Invitations Declined, 1982 – 83

**Box 3**

- 3.1 Invitations Declined, 1983 – 84
- 3.2 Israel Trip, 1982 – 83 – Correspondence and related articles
- 3.3 J – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 3.4 J – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 3.5 K – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 3.6 K – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 3.7 Kook Letters
- 3.8 L – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 3.9 L – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 3.10 M – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 3.11 M – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 3.12 Miscellaneous
- 3.13 N – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 3.14 N – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 3.15 National Prayer Vigil, Feb. – May, 1984
- 3.16 P-Q – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 3.17 P-Q – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 3.18 Political Concerns, 1982 – 83
- 3.19 Post Convention, Jan. – June, 1984 – Includes Correspondence, Articles, Interview
- 3.20 Proctor and Gamble, 1982 – 83

- 3.21 Prison Fellowship International, Feb. – Aug., 1984 – Correspondence and Articles
- 3.22 R – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 3.23 R – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 3.24 Radio and Television Commission – Correspondence, Mar. – Apr., 1984

#### **Box 4**

- 4.1 Religious Issues, 1982 – 83 – Correspondence and Articles
- 4.2 Resolutions Committee – SBC, 1983
- 4.3 S – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 4.4 S – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 4.5 S – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 4.6 Southern Baptist Advocate, Oct., 1983
- 4.70 Southern Baptist Convention – Correspondence, August, 1982 – May, 1984 – Includes Convention Program, 1984
- 4.8 Southern Baptist Convention, 1982 – 83 – General – Includes Articles, bulletins, correspondence, and ballots
- 4.9 Southern Baptist Convention, 1983 – Includes correspondence, articles, and pamphlets
- 4.10 Sunday School Board, 1982 – 83 – Correspondence
- 4.11 T-U-V – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 4.12 T-U-V – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 4.13 W – Correspondence, 1982 – 83
- 4.14 W – Correspondence, 1983 – 84
- 4.15 Women's Ordination Correspondence and Articles, Mar. – May, 1984
- 4.16 X-Y-Z – Correspondence, 1982 – 84
- 4.17 Year of the Bible, 1983

#### **Photo List**

Tyler, Joan  
 Tatum, Sue  
 Vickery, Harry E.  
 McGee, Jimmy  
 Self, Robert E.  
 Armistead, John G.

Removed from collection and placed in Photograph Collection