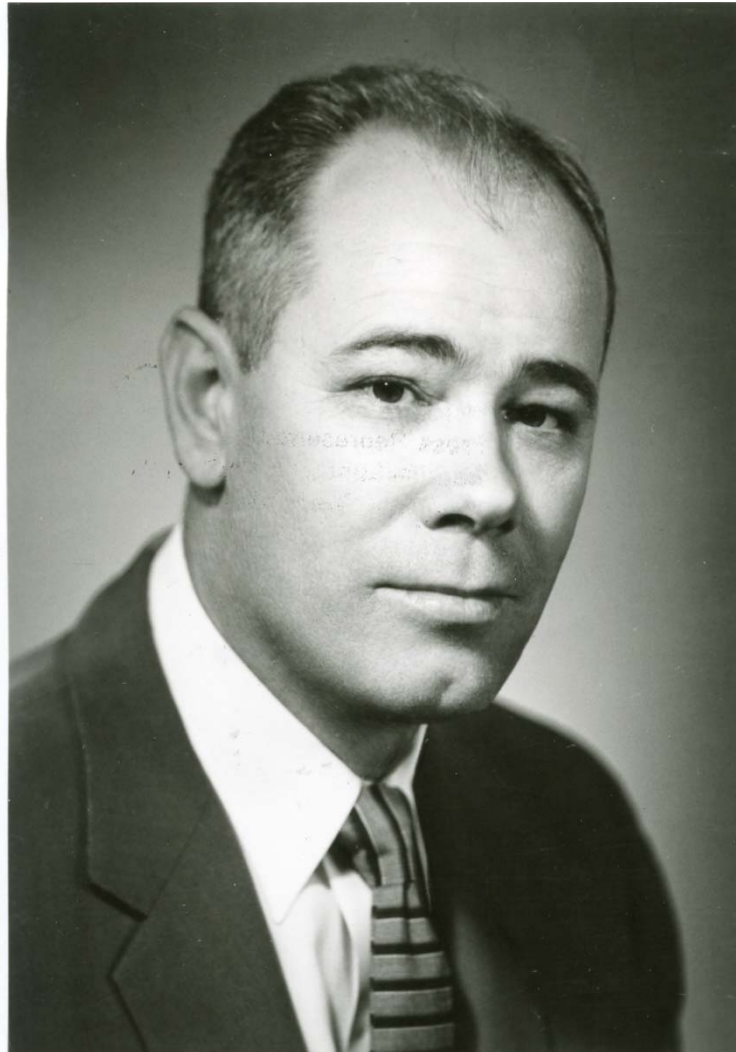


GEORGE ALLEN WEST, JR.

PAPERS

AR 609



Updated February, 2013

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

George Allen West, Jr., Papers

AR 609

Summary

Main Entry: George Allen West Papers

Date Span: 1946 – 1966

Abstract: Collection contains minutes, correspondence, and reports documenting West's service to the denomination, especially his membership on the SBC Executive Committee and as Trustee for the Sunday School Board.

Size: 5 linear ft. (11 boxes)

Collection #: AR 609

Biographical Sketch

George Allen West, Jr., was born in 1915 in Lelaton, Georgia, and grew up in Homestead, Florida. He made a profession of faith at age eight and was baptized at the First Baptist Church of Homestead. West attended Stetson University, 1932 – 1936, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree. From 1936 – 1942, he attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, earning both a masters and a doctorate in theology. West married Catherine Bugg of Perryville, Kentucky, in 1939. They had two children – Janet Marie, born in 1941, and George Allen, III, born in 1944.

During his seminary years, West served as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Sturgis, Kentucky (1938 – 1939) and Bagdad Baptist Church in Bagdad, Kentucky (1939 – 1942). In 1942, he accepted the call as the first pastor of the newly organized Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and served in that capacity until 1967.

While serving as Woodmont's pastor, West became involved in a number of community service organizations, particularly those with issues related to mental and physical health. He served as a member of the Tennessee Society for Crippled Children and Adults and the Tennessee Alcoholism Commission. West helped to establish a community counseling program with other local pastors, in 1960, and maintained an active interest in the work of the Nashville Union Mission.

West held a number of denominational leadership roles during his career. He was a trustee of Baptist Hospital, 1948 – 1959, and of the Baptist Sunday School Board, 1946 – 1952 and

1958 –1964). He also served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1952 – 1958, and the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, 1959 – 1965. He wrote lessons for the Sunday School Board and regularly contributed articles to religious periodicals. He also compiled a book of missionary sermons entitled “Christ for the World,” published in 1963 by Broadman Press.

As indicated by his published sermon collection, West maintained a lifelong interest in missions. In 1953, he visited Southern Baptist mission stations in South America and attended the Baptist World Youth Congress in Rio de Janeiro. In 1958, he participated in a preaching mission at Southern Baptist stations throughout the Middle East and southern and eastern Asia. In 1960, he returned to South America to visit mission stations and attend the Baptist World Alliance meeting in Rio. Later, in 1963, he preached at military bases in England, Scotland, and Germany.

Dr. West resigned from the pastorate of Woodmont Baptist Church in 1967, after twenty-five years. He subsequently served as Superintendent of Missions and Executive Director for the Long Run Association of Baptists in Louisville, Kentucky, retiring in 1980.

Scope and Content Note

The West Papers date from 1946 to 1966, with the bulk of the collection dating from 1950 to 1953 and 1957 to 1962. It consists primarily of minutes, correspondence, and reports documenting West’s service to the denomination, especially his membership on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (1952 – 1958) and the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board (1946 – 1952 and 1958 – 1964). Records of his service to the Sunday School Board include a significant file of material regarding the controversy surrounding the publication of *The Message of Genesis*, by Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Ralph Elliott. Pastoral correspondence from 1946 to 1964, during his tenure at Woodmont Baptist Church, also comprises a significant portion of the collection. It includes correspondence with local pastors and with Rabbi William Silverman of The Temple, Congregation Ohabai Sholom, regarding Jewish-Christian relations and race relations in Nashville. Another important correspondent was Duke McCall, then president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Other materials in the collection demonstrate West’s interest in community service, especially in organizations concerned with mental health.

The collection is organized into nine series: Clippings; Community Service; Conferences, Seminars, and Tours; Correspondence; Denominational Service; Foreign Missions; Home missions; Miscellany; and Speaking Engagements. Within each series, documents are arranged alphabetically by subject or correspondent.

For additional information regarding the career of G. Allen West, Jr., please see the “Baptist History” file and “Operation Baptist Biography” form under his name. See also the “Church History” file for Woodmont Baptist Church, the minutes of the Long Run Association of Baptists (Kentucky) for the years 1967 – 1980, and the records of the Executive Committee of the

Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Sunday School Board during the years of his tenure on those committees.

Arrangement

Nine series arranged alphabetically by subject or correspondence

Provenance

Donated by George Allen West, 1967.

Preferred Citation

George Allen West, Jr., Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

McCall, Duke, 1914 –
Missionaries – Correspondence, Reminiscences, etc.
Southern Baptist Convention
Southern Baptist Convention. Executive Committee
Southern Baptist Convention. Sunday School Board
Woodmont Baptist Church – Nashville, TN
Elliott Controversy

Related Materials

William Wayne Dehoney Collection. AR 880. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

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