

**Inventory of the
Albert McClellan Collection**

AR 610



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Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
October, 2011**

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AR 610

Summary

Main Entry: Albert McClellan Collection

Date Span: 1940 – 1991

Abstract: Collection contains files related to Albert McClellan's service as a staff member in the Southern Baptist Convention from 1949 – 1980. It includes information related to the work of the Peace Committee and Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Size: 16 linear ft. (38 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 610

Biographical Sketch

Southern Baptist denominational leader and longtime staff member of the Southern Baptist Convention, Albert McClellan was born December 22, 1912 in Bowie, Texas. McClellan graduated cum laude from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1939. After receiving his degree, he studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received a master of theology degree in 1941. McClellan married Mabel Helm, and the couple had two children.

After being ordained at age 18, McClellan began as a part time pastor at a variety of churches in Oklahoma and North Texas. In addition to pastoring and attending college, McClellan spent three years as a rural school teacher. After graduating from Southwestern, he became the full time pastor of First Baptist Church in Waurika, Oklahoma. In 1945, McClellan was named editor of the *Baptist Messenger*, the Oklahoma state Baptist paper.

In 1949, McClellan joined the Executive Committee staff as director of publications, including responsibility for *Baptist Press*, the convention's news service. Ten years later, he accepted the post of program planning secretary for the Executive Committee, a post he held until his retirement in 1980.

In addition to his work with the Executive Committee, McClellan authored 14 books and hundreds of articles about Southern Baptist life and beliefs. McClellan played a key role

in the formation of the committee to draft the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. McClellan's reputation as a reasonable and calming voice made him an ideal candidate to serve on the Peace Committee during the theological controversies of the late 1970s and 1980s. As a skilled planner, he was a driving force on the Inter-agency Council of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Throughout his life, McClellan felt a deep commitment to his local church and his association, serving in multiple capacities. He died January 9, 2004, at the age of 91.

Scope and Content Note

The Albert McClellan Collection consists of correspondence, minutes, clippings, articles, and writings. The material chronicles McClellan's long service as a staff member in the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. The collection focuses on McClellan's activities as a member of the Peace Committee and the Executive Committee during a time of strife in Southern Baptist life. Also included is extensive correspondence with two colleagues, Jack W. Manning and Sam W. Scantlan. Manning, also from Oklahoma, served as a Baptist pastor, chaplain, and seminary professor. Scantlan served as a Baptist minister, denominational worker in Oklahoma, writer, and poet.

The major topics and issues included in the papers are: the Peace Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist Faith and Message, Bold Mission Thrust, the Cooperative Program, the controversy of the SBC in the 1980's, and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

Provenance

Donated by Albert McClellan, 1984.

Preferred Citation

Albert McClellan Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

American Baptist Theological Seminary
Baptist Faith and Message
Baptists – Arizona
Baptists – Sermons
Bold Mission Thrust
Criswell, W. A. (Wallie A.), 1909 – 2002
Crouch, Austin, 1870 – 1957

First Baptist Church (Waurika, OK)
Fuller, Charles
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
Hull, William
Humphreys, Fisher
Immanuel Baptist Church (Nashville, Tenn.)
Manning, Jack W
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Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Moore, Winfred
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National Conference on Biblical Inerrancy (1987: Ridgecrest, North Carolina)
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Ordination of women
Poe, William E.
Press, Baptist
Rock, C. Vaughn
Routh, Porter Wroe, 1911 – 1987
Scantlan, Sam W.
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Southern Baptist Convention – Controversies
Southern Baptist Convention – Annuity Board
Southern Baptist Convention – Brotherhood Commission
Southern Baptist Convention – Cooperative Program
Southern Baptist Convention – Education Commission
Southern Baptist Convention – Executive Committee
Southern Baptist Convention – Foreign Mission Board
Southern Baptist Convention – Historical Commission
Southern Baptist Convention – Home Mission Board
Southern Baptist Convention – Peace Committee
Southern Baptist Convention – Stewardship Commission
Southern Baptist Convention – Sunday School Board
Southern Baptist Press Association
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Vestal, Daniel, 1944 –

Related Materials

Peace Committee Press Conference, 1986 – 1987 (sound recording), R934t, R983t
Southern Baptist Convention Proceedings, 1987 (video recording), R60vt SBC 1987
Southern Baptist Convention Controversy Oral History Collection (video recording), R553vt
A Theological and Historical Analysis of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee, 1985 – 1987, BX6462.3.J33 T33 2008
Southern Baptist Convention – Peace Committee Records, 1985 – 1988, AR 692

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