

**Inventory to the
Solomon Franklin Dowis Collection
Series of the Home Mission Board Records**

AR 631-11



Solomon Franklin Dowis, Director of Cooperative Missions, c. 1950

Taffey Hall, Archivist
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

September, 2010

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Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Solomon Franklin Dowis Collection

Date Span: 1949 – 1958

Abstract: Correspondence, subject files, articles, and promotional materials related to Solomon Franklin Dowis' tenure as Director of Cooperative Missions at the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention.

Size: 4.5 linear ft. (9 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 631-11

Biographical Sketch

Denominational leader and pastor Solomon Franklin Dowis served as the first Director of Cooperative Missions at the Home Mission Board from 1946 to 1958. Dowis was born May 19, 1891, in Fulton County, Georgia. He was the oldest of twelve children born to William Calvin and Hannah Burdette Dowis. In October 1891, he rolled onto a bed of coals in a fireplace and nearly burned to death. Dowis became a Christian in 1904 at age thirteen. The next year the family moved to Duluth, Georgia. Dowis accepted the call to Christian ministry at age fifteen and was baptized in 1907. He preached his first public sermon the Sunday after his baptism. He was ordained by Duluth Baptist Church in 1912.

Solomon Dowis attended Norman Junior College, Mercer University, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as a chaplain during World War I. In 1918, he married Frances Mae Freeman.

Throughout his career, Dowis served as pastor to over twenty churches in Georgia and Kentucky. He served on the Executive Committee of the Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville. Dowis began work with the Home Mission Board as superintendent of City Missions in 1943. He was chosen to be the first director of the Board's new department of Cooperative Missions in 1946. In this capacity Dowis promoted programs for city missions, rural church programs, and western mission programs. The department of Mountain Missions was added in 1948 and later

an eastern pioneer program for mission work east of the Mississippi River. Dowis was also instrumental in establishing mission programs for broken homes and juvenile delinquents, military personnel programs, rural church survey programs, and long range missions planning.

Dowis' first wife died on August 6, 1953. He married Frances Flurry, who had served as his secretary for ten years, on December 24, 1955. Throughout his ministerial career, not counting the two years he served in World War I, Dowis averaged conducting six revivals a year and baptizing 100 people per year. He retired from the Home Mission Board December 31, 1958. Following retirement, Dowis served as interim pastor at several churches in Georgia until his death on November 5, 1967.

Scope and Content Note

The Solomon Franklin Dowis Collection (4.5 linear ft.) consists primarily of correspondence and subject files related to Dowis' tenure as Director of Cooperative Missions at the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention. Dowis' correspondence files from 1953 to 1956 comprise about two-thirds of the collection. Prominent individuals included in the correspondence are Baker James Cauthen, L. O. Griffith, Herschel H. Hobbs, Alma Hunt, J. E. Lambdin, J. B. Lawrence, T.B. Maston, Mrs. R. L. Mathis, Albert McClellan, A. C. Miller, Merrill D. Moore, Ramsey Pollard, Porter Routh, James L. Sullivan, and Davis C. Woolley. Other materials in the Dowis Collection include subject files and promotional materials related to Rural Church Conferences, Western Missions Conferences, Eastern and Western Rural Life Conference, and survey programs.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

Provenance

Transferred by the North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention, 2005.

Preferred Citation

Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Solomon Franklin Dowis Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Home missions.

Rural missions.

Church development, new.

Dowis, S. F. (Solomon Franklin), 1891-1967.

Hunt, Alma, 1909-

Lawrence, John Benjamin, 1871-1968.

Maston, T. B. (Thomas Buford), 1897-1988.

McClellan, Albert Alfred, 1912-2004.

Miller, Acker Calvin, 1891-1984.

Redford, Courts, 1898-1977.
 Routh, Porter Wroe, 1911-1987.
 Southern Baptist Convention – Missions.
 Sullivan, James L. (James Lenox), 1910-2005.
 Woolley, Davis Collier, 1908-1971.

Related Materials

Southern Baptist Convention. Christian Life Commission. Administrative Files. Dowis correspondence file: Box 4, folder 23. SBHLA # AR 138.
 Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board Series Records. SBHLA # AR 631 series. Various correspondence and subject files on Culpepper throughout series.

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- 1.3 Broadway Plan of Church Finance
- 1.4 Community Surveys – California, 1955 (Folder 1 of 2)
- 1.5 Community Surveys – California, 1955 (Folder 2 of 2)
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- 1.8 Correspondence – Anderson (Mercer University), 1953 – 1954
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