

**Inventory to the
Chaplains Commission Collection
Home Mission Board**

AR 631-18



Chaplain George Cummins, USNR, conducts services for officers and men of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Wonsan, Korea, 1950

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

June, 2016

Inventory to the Chaplains Commission Collection Home Mission Board

AR 631-18

Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Chaplains Commission Collection

Date Span: 1945-2007

Abstract: Records and collection of material related to chaplaincy in the Southern Baptist Convention. Includes material collected by the Chaplains Commission office of the Home Mission Board/North American Mission Board. The collection includes correspondence, minutes, newsletters, budget information, files on chaplains, photographs, slides, audio-visuals, and a few artifacts. Includes material collected for Lawrence Fitzgerald's history of Southern Baptist chaplaincy.

Size: 19 linear ft.

Collection #: AR631-18

Historical Sketch

The Chaplains Commission, SBC, is the designated body for providing affirmation of Southern Baptists needing endorsement to serve as Southern Baptist chaplains or counselors. It has been the practice that agencies and institutions desiring chaplaincy or counseling ministries services want to correspond with one designated body from a faith group or denomination that provides endorsement documents. In 1941 the SBC designated what became known as the Chaplains Commission, SBC, as that one body. The year 2001 marks 60 years of service to Southern Baptists by the Chaplains Commission, SBC.

Chaplaincy and counseling ministries personnel serve at the invitation of the agency or institution in which they minister. Southern Baptist endorsed chaplains and counselors in ministry relate to Southern Baptist life and practice in a continuing capacity through the Chaplaincy Evangelism Team, North American Mission Board, and through local Southern Baptist churches, local Southern Baptist associations, and state or regional Southern Baptist conventions.

Extended History of Chaplains Commission, SBC:

Southern Baptist involvement in chaplaincy ministries dates back to 1847 when a pastor of a Hampton, Virginia, Baptist church was called to serve as the chaplain of the University of Virginia. Further involvement came during the Civil War as pastors and churches did evangelism and ministry to the Confederate troops. The 1863 minutes of the SBC demonstrate the support of chaplaincy among military forces. Religious work was carried among the soldiers in a number of states. At the close of the war the Domestic Mission Board of the SBC reported, "This has been a prolific field of ministerial effort. It would be gratifying to all the friends of Jesus to read the many letters we have received from chaplains and missionaries employed among the soldiers of the armies..." (SBC Proceedings 1866, p. 40).

Southern Baptist ministers continued to respond to the call for military chaplains as they were recruited by the military. As World War I began, the following is found in the SBC minutes: "As the country is now greatly increasing its military, naval and aviation forces and will probably continue to increase them for some time, it is plain that the services of many ministers will be needed in the chaplaincy. The Home Mission Board is instructed to use its best endeavors to stimulate and cultivate the interest of our people in this matter and to care for the interests of the denomination as may be necessary. The cooperation of the State Boards is also earnestly requested in the task of finding and recommending men suited to this responsible work." (Southern Baptist Convention Proceedings 1917, pp.100-101).

During the intervening years between World War I and II, the SBC sought to engage in military chaplaincy ministry through the work of the Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains. This committee was appointed by the Executive Committee, SBC and was located in Washington, D.C. Just prior to United States entry into World War. The Executive Committee, SBC recommended to the SBC that the SBC designate to the Home Mission Board (HMB) the responsibility for endorsement of chaplains. The action of the messengers at the convention reads: We further recommend that Southern Baptists make direct contact with the Government in the appointment of chaplains from our denomination and that the Home Mission Board be designated as an agent to make this contact through a duly appointed representative, in fullest cooperation with other religious bodies, and, further, that all recommendations and endorsements for chaplains from Southern Baptists be made by the Home Mission Board to the Government. Wishing to maintain the most fraternal and cooperative relationship with the other evangelical bodies, the SBC shall through its Committee appointed by the Home Mission Board retain its membership on the General Commission of Army and Navy Chaplains, provided the General Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains shall continue to exercise its autonomy. Should the General Commission lose its autonomy, then the Committee appointed by the Home Board shall be instructed to seek a consultative membership on the General Commission of Army and Navy Chaplains. (Proceedings SBC 1941, pp. 52-53)

Following this meeting, the HMB established a committee to handle the endorsement function of the Board. This committee retained the name Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains. Dr. Alfred Carpenter, pastor at Blytheville, Arkansas, became the first "superintendent" for the work of chaplaincy. A recommendation was presented and adopted

at the 1949 SBC stating “That for the sake of clarity the Convention change its terminology and that the Convention recognize the Chaplains Commission, SBC, established by the Home Mission Board, as having all of the powers and responsibilities committed to the Chaplains Committee by the Convention in 1941 as follows:

- (1) That the religious work in connection with the army camps, navy bases, marine corps stations, air corps, and C.C.C. Camps be assigned to the Home Mission Board, with the understanding that the Board will work in cooperation with the State Mission Boards.
- (2) We further recommend that Southern Baptist make direct contact with the government in the appointment of chaplains from our denomination and that the Home Mission Board be designated as an agent to make this contact through a duly appointed representative, in fullest cooperation with other religious bodies, and, further, that all recommendations and endorsements for chaplains from Southern Baptist be made by the Home Mission Board to the Government. ‘Wishing to maintain the most fraternal and co-operative relationship with other evangelical bodies, the SBC shall through its Committee appointed by the Home Mission Board retain its membership on the General Commission of Army and Navy Chaplains, provided the General Commission on Army and Navy shall continue to exercise its autonomy. Should the General Commission lose its autonomy, then the Committee appointed by the Home Mission Board shall be instructed to seek a consultative membership on the General Commission of Army and Navy Chaplains,’ and that we recognize the right of this Commission to designate itself as the Chaplains Commission, SBC, of the Southern Baptist Convention. (SBC Proceedings 1949, pp. 39-40).

In 1985 the SBC voted to task the Chaplains Commission, SBC, with the endorsement responsibilities for Southern Baptist involved in pastoral counseling ministries.

Scope and Content Note

The Chaplains Commission material document the work of Southern Baptists endorsed chaplains since the establishment of the Commission in 1941. Some information is also available on the history of Baptist chaplains prior to that time. The collection includes some correspondence of leaders in the chaplaincy program at the Home Mission Board, including, E.L. Ackliss, George Cummins, Alfred Carpenter, and others. Extensive holdings of minutes and newsletters of the Chaplains Commission are a part of the collection. Files on individual chaplains, publications, files on selected issues also make up a share of the records.

The collection also includes photographic prints and slides related to chaplaincy. Most of the images have some type of identification, but not all. The Audio-Visual series includes audio recordings, filmstrips, motion picture films and video recordings.

Included in the collection are several reels of 16 mm microfilm. The microfilm includes personnel files on chaplains endorsed by the Home Mission Board/North American Mission Board. The microfilm only covers a portion of the HMB endorsed chaplains. Also included in the collection is one box of related artifacts.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into five series; 1. General Files – 2. Photographs – 3. Audio-Visuals – 4. Microfilm -- 5. Artifacts. Each series is arranged in alphabetical order.

Provenance

Donated by Chaplains Commission Office, North American Mission Board, 2014.

Preferred Citation

Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Chaplains Commission Collection.
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Ackliss, A. L.

Carpenter, Alfred, 1892-

Clark, William L., 1911-

Cummins, George W.

Kelly, James Woodrow, 1913-

Chaplains – History

Chaplains – Baptists

Chaplains – Hospital

Chaplains – Southern Baptist Convention

Chaplains – Industrial

Chaplains – Military

Chaplains – Prison

Women clergy

Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Chaplains Commission

Southern Baptist Convention. North American Mission Board. Chaplains Commission

Related Materials

Fitzgerald, Lawrence. *History of Southern Baptist Chaplaincy*. Atlanta, GA: Chaplains Commission, Home Mission Board, 1970.

Knight, Walker. *Chaplaincy: love on the line: the human touch in chaplaincy*. Atlanta : Home Mission Board, 1978.

Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Minutes. AR 631-1.

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- 24.39 New York – Mitchel Air Force Base
- 24.40 Pacific Islands – Religious Services
- 24.41 Panama – Fort Kobbe Sunday School
- 24.42 Pinecrest State School – Mentally Challenged Children School – Howard Paschall
- 24.43 Prison Chaplaincy

Box 25

- 25.1 Service Men’s Gospel Team
- 25.2 Sheriff’s Department – Fort Worth, TX – Chaplain Bobby Cox
- 25.3 South Carolina Baptist Hospital – Chaplain Intern Joe Baroody
- 25.4 Southern Baptist Convention – Mixed Choir, 1951
- 25.5 Spindale Mill – Spindale, NC – Chaplain Harry Walker
- 25.6 Sweden – Gravlinsberg – Baptist Summer Camp
- 25.7 Trinidad – Chapel, 1942
- 25.8 Tripoli – Wheelus Field – Vacation Bible School, 1955
- 25.9 Vietnam – Chaplain Ministry
- 25.10 Women’s Correctional Center (Richmond, VA) – Marjorie Bailey
- 25.11 World War II

Box 26

- 26.1 Scrapbook – Chaplaincy, 1944 – 1992
- 26.2 Scrapbook – Chaplaincy, 1993 – 1997
- 26.3 Scrapbook – Chaplaincy, 1997 – 1999

Box 27

- 27.1 Baptist Group – Chaplain School – Harvard University, May 1944
- 27.2 Boys School – Springer, New Mexico – Chaplain Grady Criswell
- 27.3 Keeler, B. – Prints of Military Chaplains
- 27.4 Killed in Action – World War II Chaplains – Southern Baptists
- 27.5 Miscellaneous/Unidentified
- 27.6 Navy Chaplain – Ross Rector
- 27.7 Pinecrest State School – Mentally Challenged Children – Howard Paschall
- 27.8 Sheriff's Department – Fort Worth, TX – Chaplain Bobby Cox
- 27.9 South Carolina Baptist Hospital – Chaplain Intern Joe Baroody
- 27.10 Spindale Mills – Spindale, NC – Chaplain Harry Walker
- 27.11 Women's Correctional Center (Richmond, VA) – Marjorie Bailey/ Men's Penitentiary
- "The Wall" (Richmond, VA)

Photographs – Slides

Box 28

- 28.1 Armed Forces
- 28.2 Chaplaincy – Motor Company
- 28.3 Chaplains – Jacksonville, FL
- 28.4 Chaplains – Memorial Hospital – Houston
- 28.5 Chaplains – North Carolina
- 28.6 Individuals – Akridge, Bratton
- 28.7 Individuals – Bailey, Marjorie
- 28.8 Individuals – Beltram, Robert
- 28.9 Individuals – Brand, William R.
- 28.10 Individuals – Brewington, Bettram
- 28.11 Individuals – Brewington, Wiborn
- 28.12 Individuals – Cardenas, Horacio
- 28.13 Individuals – Cook, Dick
- 28.14 Individuals – Coole, Jeni
- 28.15 Individuals – Criswell, Grady
- 28.16 Individuals – Dotsch, Nancy
- 28.17 Individuals – Eastham, Marshall
- 28.18 Individuals – Frazier, Calvin
- 28.19 Individuals – Garland, Robert
- 28.20 Individuals – Harbin, Bob
- 28.21 Individuals – Harsh, Gerald

- 28.22 Individuals – Helmich, Robert C.
- 28.23 Individuals – Kerley, Clyde
- 28.24 Individuals – Kendricks, Leslie
- 28.25 Individuals – Luffman, E.H.
- 28.26 Individuals – Mathis, Roy
- 28.27 Individuals – Miller, Bert
- 28.28 Individuals – Morita, Timothy
- 28.29 Individuals – Paschall, Howard
- 28.30 Individuals – Rector, Roscoe
- 28.31 Individuals – Robertson, Boyd
- 28.32 Individuals – Self, Joe. A., Jr.
- 28.33 Individuals – Shirey, Larry
- 28.34 Individuals – Sodeman, Lowell F.
- 28.35 Individuals – Spilman, Wallace
- 28.36 Individuals – Trayham, Constant
- 28.37 Individuals – Trayham, Joe
- 28.38 Individuals – Vickos, Hylon
- 28.39 Individuals – Walker, Harry

Box 29

- 29.1 North American Air Defense (NORAD)
- 29.2 North Carolina Baptist Hospital
- 29.3 Retreat, 1972
- 29.4 Slideshow – Called to Serve
- 29.5 Slideshow – A Glance at Home Missions

3. Audio-Visuals – Audio Recordings

Box 30

- 30.1 Audio Recording – 1. Call to Serve in the US Navy Chaplaincy
2. Cherry, Carla – US Navy Chaplain, 1993
- 30.2 Audio Recording – 1. Hutcherson, LTC, 1993
2. McKee, B.J. – Retirement, 1982
- 30.3 Audio Recording – 1. Missionscope USA
2. McGorman, Jack – “Holy Spirit” Lecture, 1979
3. Olsson, Karl – “The Church and Family”
- 30.4 Audio Recording – Tisdale – Industrial Chaplaincy and Mental Health

Audio-Visuals – Filmstrips

- 31.1 Filmstrip – Chaplains: Man on a Mission
- 31.2 Filmstrip – Volunteers in Bold Mission Thrust
- 31.3 Filmstrip – “What is a Chaplain?”

Audio-Visuals – Motion Pictures

- 32.1 “For Thou Art with Me”
- 32.2 Hey Chaplain
- 32.3 Hey Chaplain
- 32.4 Hospital Visitation
- 32.5 Interview with the Dying Patient, Part 1
- 32.6 Interview with the Dying Patient, Part 2
- 32.7 Set Free – (Prison Chaplaincy)
- 32.8 Spring Street USA
- 32.9 Spring Street USA
- 32.10 Spring Street USA – Spring Street Singers
- 32.11 Spring Street USA – Spring Street Singers
- 32.12 Yuletide Reflections

Audio-Visuals – Video

Box 33

- 33.1 Slideshow – Industrial Chaplaincy
- 33.2 Reflections – Southern Baptist in North Carolina, 1988
- 33.3 “RX for Comfort” – Pastoral Care Today

4. Microfilm

- 33.4 5 reels, 16 mm – Chaplains, A-C
Information on retired chaplains or declined endorsement including endorsement papers, correspondence, application papers, academic documents and evaluation papers

5. Artifact

- 34.1 Navy Chaplains Pennant – In use from 1953 – 1955