

# INVENTORY TO THE BAILEY SMITH PAPERS

AR 671



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Updated September, 2012

# Inventory to the Bailey Smith Papers

## AR 671

### Summary

Main Entry: Bailey Smith Papers

Date Span: 1980 – 1982

Abstract: Collection contains mostly correspondence during Bailey Smith's tenure as President of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1980 – 1982. Contains supportive and critical letters on topics such as abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment, national politics, and relations with Jews.

Size: 1.5 linear ft. (2 boxes)

Collection #: AR 671

### Biographical Sketch

Bailey Smith was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1980 and re-elected in 1981. Smith was president of the Oklahoma Baptist Convention, 1979 – 1980, and of the SBC Pastors' Conference in 1978.

Bailey Eugene Smith was born in Dallas, Texas, January 30, 1939. He was baptized in 1949 at the Elam Baptist Church in Dallas. He graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in 1962 and received his B.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1967. He has received five honorary doctorates.

Smith served as pastor of churches in Arkansas, Texas, and New Mexico. At the time he was elected Southern Baptist Convention president, Smith was pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Oklahoma. Smith has also served as an evangelist.

He is the author of Real Evangelistic Preaching, Real Evangelism, Real Christianity, Real Revival Preaching, Nothing But the Blood, and The Grace Escape, all published by Broadman Press.

Smith and his wife Sandra have three sons.

### Scope and Content Note

Bailey E. Smith served as Southern Baptist Convention president from 1980 to 1982. The papers cover his tenure as president. During his time as president, Smith traveled in the United States and visited Kenya. Issues facing Southern Baptists included abortion, a national election, and the Equal Rights Amendment.

Controversy erupted over an August 20, 1980 statement by Smith that stated, “God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew.” Smith subsequently attempted to mend fences by numerous contacts with Jewish leaders of the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith.

The collection consists of 1.5 linear feet of material, and most of it is correspondence, including letters of support as well as criticism. Many of the letters are from ordinary church members, expressing their views on a variety of issues, such as Smith’s emphasis on evangelism and his attempts to lead the SBC in a more conservative direction. Correspondents include Jack Taylor, SBC First Vice-President; Bob Maddox, White House Special Assistant for Religious Liaison; Paul Pressler; Paige Patterson, Foy Valentine, executive director, Christian Life Commission, SBC; James Dunn, executive director, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; and other SBC agency heads, as well as pastors and lay persons.

The collection is arranged according to each year of Smith’s presidency (1980 – 1981 and 1981 – 1982). Within each year’s span, the folders are arranged alphabetically by subject. Folders 1.1 through 1.71 cover the years 1980 – 1981, and Folders 1.72 through 2.29 cover 1981 – 1982. Bailey Smith donated the papers to the Historical Commission on October 30, 1987. The Historical Commission has maintained the original order of the collection.

### **Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically and alphabetically within each year

### **Provenance**

Donated by Bailey Smith, October 30, 1987, to the Historical Commission (Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives)

### **Preferred Citation**

Bailey Smith Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

### **Access Restrictions**

None

### **Subject Terms**

Criswell, W. A., 1909 – 2002

Patterson, Paige

Pressler, Paul, 1930 –

Dunn, James M.

Valentine, Foy

Taylor, Jack R.

Southern Baptist Convention – History – 20<sup>th</sup> century

Controversies – Baptist

Abortion – Religious aspects

Women – Social and moral questions

## **Related Materials**

For further information on Bailey Smith in the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, see the Baptist History File (both subject and individuals), Baptist Press releases (1980 – 1982), and Southern Baptist Convention Annals (1980 – 1982). See also books by Smith: Real Evangelism (BY 3790 S63 1978); Real Christianity (BX 6333 S64 R42 1979); Real Evangelistic Preaching (BX 6333 S53 R4 1981); Real Revival Preaching (BX 6333 S53 R4 1982); Nothing But the Blood (BT 265.2 S64 1987); and The Grace Escape (BT 761.2 S64 1991).

## **Container List**

### **Box 1**

- 1.1 A – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.2 Abortion, 1980 – 1981
- 1.3 B – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.4 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, 1980 – 1981
- 1.5 Baptist Press, 1980
- 1.6 Bennett, Harold, 1980 – 1981
- 1.7 C – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.8 Christian Life Commission, 1980
- 1.9 Committee on Committees, Los Angeles, SBC, 1980 – 1981
- 1.10 Committee on Order of Business, 1980 – 1981
- 1.11 Committee on Resolutions, 1981
- 1.12 Congratulations (Personal), 1980
- 1.13 Cooperative Program, 1980 – 1981
- 1.14 Criswell, W. A., 1980
- 1.15 D – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.16 E – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.17 El Sabrante (revival), 1981
- 1.18 Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), 1980
- 1.19 Executive Committee, SBC, 1980 – 1981
- 1.20 F – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.21 Foreign Mission Board, 1980-81
- 1.22 Foundation (Southern Baptist) – Executive Committee Meetings, 1980-81
- 1.23 G – Correspondence, 1980-81
- 1.24 Greetings, etc., 1980
- 1.25 H – Correspondence, 1980-81
- 1.26 Historical Commission, SBC, 1980 – 1981
- 1.27 Home Mission Board, 1980
- 1.28 Homosexuals, 1980
- 1.29 I – Correspondence, 1980
- 1.30 Insurance, SBC, 1980
- 1.31 J – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.32 Jewish Statement, 1980
- 1.33 Jewish Statement – Personally Answered, 1980
- 1.34 K – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.35 Kenya, Africa (trip), 1981

- 1.36 L – Correspondence, 1981
- 1.37 Mc – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.38 M – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.39 Maddox, Bob (White House Special Assistant for Religious Liaison), 1980
- 1.40 Midwestern Seminary, 1980
- 1.41 Misquotes, 1980
- 1.42 N – Correspondence, 1981
- 1.43 Newspapers (Dallas Times Herald), 1980
- 1.44 North American Baptist Fellowship, 1980
- 1.45 O – Correspondence, 1981
- 1.46 Ouachita Baptist University, 1980
- 1.47 P – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.48 Plaques, 1980
- 1.49 Public Affairs Committee, 1980
- 1.50 Purchases ("Christian Be Watchful" brochure), 1980
- 1.51 R – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.52 Republican National Committee, 1980
- 1.53 Resolutions, Southern Baptist Convention, 1980
- 1.54 S – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.55 Southern Baptist Convention (St. Louis), 1980
- 1.56 Southern Baptist Convention (Los Angeles), 1981
- 1.57 Southern Baptist Convention Sermon, 1981
- 1.58 Southwestern Seminary, 1980
- 1.59 State Presidents, 1981
- 1.60 Sunday School Board, 1980
- 1.61 T – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.62 Taylor, Jack, 1980 – 1981
- 1.63 U – Correspondence, 1980
- 1.64 Union University, 1980
- 1.65 United Way, 1980
- 1.66 V – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.67 Visits (Reports on These) by Staff, 1980
- 1.68 W – Correspondence, 1980 – 1981
- 1.69 Woman's Missionary Union, 1980 – 1981
- 1.70 World Hunger, 1980 – 1981
- 1.71 White House, 1980
- 1.72 A – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 1.73 B – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 1.74 Baptist Press, 1981 – 1982
- 1.75 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, 1981 – 1982
- 1.76 Bennett, Harold, 1981 – 1982
- 1.77 C – Correspondence, 1980-81
- 1.78 Christian Life Commission, 1981 – 1982
- 1.79 Committee on Committees, 1982
- 1.80 Committee on Order of Business, 1981 – 1982
- 1.81 Committee on Resolutions, 1982

## **Box 2**

- 2.1 Congratulations, 1982
- 2.2 Congratulatory Letters (to churches, anniversaries, new buildings, etc.), 1981 – 1982
- 2.3 D – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.4 E – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.5 F – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.6 Foreign Mission Board, 1981 – 1982
- 2.7 G – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.8 H – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.9 I – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.10 J – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.11 K – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.12 Kenya, 1981 – 1982
- 2.13 L – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.14 Mc – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.15 M – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.16 N – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.17 O – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.18 P – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.19 Q – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.20 R – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.21 S – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.22 Southern Baptist Convention (New Orleans), 1982
- 2.23 Southern Baptist Convention Sermon, 1982
- 2.24 Southern Baptist Foundation, 1982
- 2.25 Sunday School Board, 1981 – 1982
- 2.26 T – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.27 V – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.28 W – Correspondence, 1981 – 1982
- 2.29 White House, 1981 – 1982