

CHURCH TRAINING DEPARTMENT COLLECTION

AR 795 – 549



Delegates from Alabama to the South Wide Baptist Training Union Conference, 1938

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Updated November, 2011

Church Training Department Collection

AR 795 – 549

Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Sunday School Board. Church Training Department Collection

Date Span: 1906 – 1990

Abstract: The Church Training Department of the Southern Baptist Convention Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources), formed in 1918, focused on discipleship training, doctrine, evangelism, and Baptist heritage. The Collection consists of correspondence, files, publications, special promotional materials, material related to Baptist Young People's Union, Training Union, and Church Training Department.

Size: 14 linear ft. (28 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 795 – 549

Historical Note

The Church Training Department at the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Sunday School Board developed from the Baptist Young People's Union (B.Y.P.U.), which was for young people 17 years of age and above. Its first publication was the *Young People's Leader*, published 1894 – 1900. The *B.Y.P.U. Quarterly* appeared in 1900. The unions gradually moved to a graded program (juniors, intermediates, seniors). During the period 1914 to 1920, some large churches employed B.Y.P.U. directors to supervise the work. The B.Y.P.U. Department of the Board was established in 1918, and Landrum Pinson Leavell was appointed secretary. Leavell became the moving force in the development and promotion of B.Y.P.U. activity in Southern Baptist Churches. Following his death in 1929, Jerry Lambdin became secretary of the department.

The growth of the B.Y.P.U. work led to grading into age groups by 1921. The Adult and Children's Story Hour emerged in the period, 1920 – 1930. Thus the movement developed into a fully guarded Church Training program for all age groups, and, in 1934, the name was changed to Baptist Training Union. In 1959, Jerry Lambdin retired after 30 years as secretary of the Training Union Department. On January 1, 1960, Phillip B. Harris became secretary. In 1968 and 1969, the resources of the department were mobilized to complete the most comprehensive redesign of all facets of the Training Union program in its history. An attempt to change the name of Training Union to Quest was rejected by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1969. The name of the department was changed to Church Training Department.

In 1973, the department launched "CHURCH: The Sunday Night Place." In January, 1978, Roy T. Edgemon assumed the role of program director, replacing Harris. In 1979, seven priorities emerged as the means for implementing Church Training tasks: Ongoing curriculum materials, Equipping Centers,

new church member materials, Build Up: A Church Training Enrollment Plan, Baptist Doctrine Study, *MasterLife: Discipleship Training for Leaders*, and the National Youth Discipleship Program.

Scope and Content Note

The Church Training Department Collection includes 14 linear ft. of material in 28 document boxes. Materials span from 1906 to 1990 and provide rich insight into the history and development of the Church Training Department. The collection includes lesson plans, promotional materials, correspondence files, training guides, brochures, pamphlets, conference programs, kits, and audio visual materials. Materials on the Baptist Young People's Union (including correspondence files of Landrum Leavell) and several files on the Eight Point Record System are of unique interest. The collection also includes a significant amount of material on the proposed name change of Training Union to Quest.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically.

Preferred Citation

Church Training Department Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Southern Baptist Convention, Sunday School Board, Church Training Department – History
 Baptist Young People's Union
 Church Training
 Church work with children
 Church work with youth
 Lambdin, Jerry Elmer, 1889-1960
 Leavell, Frank Hartwell, 1884-1949
 Leavell, Landrum Pinson, 1874-1929
 Householder, Lloyd T., 1929-

Related Resource

Lambdin, Jerry Elmer. Collection, 1914-1973. AR 795-187.
 Leavell, Landrum Pinson, Papers, 1902-1937. AR 795-180

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6. Dr. Phillip B. Harris – Interview by Howard Gallimore, concerning Quest (December 14, 1978)
7. Comments on Quest by Jerry Elmore (December 20, 1972)
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