

THOMAS D. ELLIFF PAPERS

AR 828



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Thomas D. Elliff Papers

AR 828

Summary

Main Entry: Thomas D. Elliff Papers

Date Span: 1996 – 1998

Abstract: Collection contains correspondence, primarily concerning the 1997 SBC resolution calling for Southern Baptists to boycott the Disney Company. There is correspondence from Baptist leaders and three U. S. presidents – Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush, as well as articles written by or about Dr. Elliff.

Size: 3.75 linear ft. (3 boxes)

Collection #: AR 828

Biographical Sketch

Thomas D. Elliff was born February 21, 1944, in Paris, Texas, and became a third generation pastor. Both his father and grandfather had served as pastors and associational directors of missions. Elliff attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, where he received a B.A. in History in 1966. He earned the Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1971, and he received two honorary doctorate degrees – the Doctor of Sacred Theology from Southwestern Baptist University and the Doctor of Divinity from Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

During his college and seminary days, Elliff served a total of four churches in Arkansas and Texas. From 1981 to 1983, he served as a missionary, through the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. He accepted the pastorate of the First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Oklahoma, in 1985.

Elliff served in a variety of associational and state convention capacities and led many crusades and conferences all over the world. In 1996, he was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention at New Orleans, Louisiana, and he was re-elected in 1997 at Dallas, Texas. Elliff is the author of four books.

Thomas D. Elliff married Jeannie Thomas, August 20, 1966, and the couple has four children and ten grandchildren.

Scope and Content Note

The Thomas D. Elliff Papers contains 3.75 linear feet and covers the years 1996 to 1998. The collection was donated by Dr. Elliff to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in March, 2001. No additions are expected. The collection is comprised primarily of correspondence,

the bulk of which concerns the 1997 SBC resolution calling for Southern Baptists to boycott the Disney Company and any other "...company that promotes immoral ideologies and practices." The overwhelming majority of the letters are from members of the American Family Association, all of whom were in support of the SBC boycott of Disney. The collection also includes issues such as partial birth abortion.

The collection contains correspondence, from Baptist leaders, most of which is congratulatory in nature. There is correspondence from three United States presidents – Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush. Dr. Elliff's 1997 and 1998 presidential addresses are also included, as well as magazine articles written by or about Dr. Elliff.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title. The Disney correspondence, which is separate from the general correspondence, includes a separate subdivision of correspondence from Roman Catholics concerning the Disney boycott.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by folder title

Provenance

Donated by Dr. Elliff to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in March, 2001

Preferred Citation

Thomas D. Elliff Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Clinton, William Jefferson, 1946 –
Bush, George W., 1946 –
Carter, Jimmy, 1924 –
Southern Baptist Convention – Presidents
Walt Disney Company
Southern Baptist Convention – History – 20th century
Abortion – Religious aspects
Homosexuality – Religious aspects

Related Material

Annual of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1997
Elliff, Thomas. *Praying for Others*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1978.
Elliff, Thomas. *The Pathway to God's Presence*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1990.
Elliff, Thomas. *America on the Edge*. Oklahoma City: NCM Press, 1992.
Elliff, Thomas. *A Passion for Prayer*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1998.
Elliff, Thomas. *Thomas Elliff Papers*. Biographical Sketch.

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- 1.2 Articles – Thomas Elliff, 1996 – 1998
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