

Inventory of the Dwight Leonard Baker Papers

AR 755



Rev. Dwight Baker in pulpit at Nazareth Baptist Church, ca. 1954

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

October 2018

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Summary

Main Entry: Dwight Leonard Baker Papers

Date Span: 1953-2012

Abstract: Collection of material and papers related to the life and missionary career of Dwight L. Baker. The collection includes articles, clippings, correspondence, writings and other material documenting Baker's work as a missionary and teacher in Israel, India, and the Philippines. The collection also includes information on the Elliott controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention, 1962-1963 and articles and clippings from 1980-1987 on the inerrancy controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. The collection includes Dwight Baker's Memoirs and the 50-year history of Baptist mission work in Israel and Palestine.

Size: 1.25 linear ft. (3 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 755

Biographical Sketch

Dwight Leonard Baker was born November 21, 1920 in Bolivar, Missouri, to William Dewey Baker and his wife Wynonna Nell Baker. His father was a minister. He spent his growing up years in Missouri but graduated high school in Iola, Kansas. He completed his B.A. degree at Baylor University in 1944 and his Th.M. degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He completed additional studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. He received his Ph.D. degree from Harford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut.

Baker became a Christian at the age of nine and was baptized at the Wyatt Park Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in December, 1942 at the First Baptist Church in Jefferson, Texas. Early in his days of ministry, he served as pastor to churches in Texas. He also served as chaplain at the Waco State Home and in the U.S. Army in Germany. In 1950 he and his wife Emma, began service with the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as missionaries in Israel and later, India. He served as pastor of the Nazareth Baptist Church in Israel. Their mission service with the FMB ended December 1, 1987.

While on furlough from the Foreign Mission Board he was visiting professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City during the 1962-63 school year, teaching missions and church history.

In retirement, Baker served as interim pastor to an Indian church in Prince Albert, Canada during the year 1990. In 1992 he and his wife journeyed back to Israel where Dwight taught at the Christian Service Center in Haifa, Israel. They retired to Dallas, Texas, where Emma, his wife of 65 years died in May of 2011 and Dwight passed away in November of that year.

Scope and Content Note

The collection of materials and papers are related to the life and missionary career of Dwight L. Baker. The collection includes articles, clippings, correspondence, writings and other material documenting Baker's work as a missionary and teacher in Israel, India, and the Philippines. The collection also includes information on the Elliott controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention, 1962-1963 and articles and clippings from 1980-1987 on the inerrancy controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. The Elliott Controversy focused on the commentary writings of Ralph Elliott, a professor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Information on the charismatic movement and its effect on Baptists in Israel is found in the papers. The files also include articles and clippings from 1980-1987, on the inerrancy controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention. The collection contains Dwight Baker's Memoirs and the 50-year history of Baptist mission work in Israel and Palestine.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

Provenance

Donated by Dwight L. Baker, 1991. Additions donated by Rebecca Rowden, 2012.

Preferred Citation

Dwight Leonard Baker Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Association of Baptist Churches in Israel
 Baptist Convention in Israel
 Nazareth Baptist Church (Israel)
 Baptists for Freedom
 Southern Baptist Convention – Controversy – History
 Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversy – Southern Baptist Convention
 Baptists – Israel
 Baptists – Missions – Israel
 Pentecostalism
 Elliott Controversy
 Baker, Dwight Leonard, 1920-2011
 Binkley, Olin Trivette, 1908-
 Elliott, Ralph Harrison, 1925-
 Estes, Joseph R. (Joseph Richard), 1925-

Lee, Robert G. (Robert Greene), 1886-1978
 Valentine, Foy, 1923-

Related Materials

Baker, Dwight L. Oral History Interview, Baylor University Oral History Collection, Waco, Texas, 1989.

Southern Baptist Convention. Missionary Correspondence Files, AR551-2
 Murphey, Milton and Martha, 1952-1987. Box 222
 Rowden, Paul and Marjorie, 1951-1962. Box 110
 Thorne, Dale and Anita, 1965-1987. Box 286

Hayahad Digest, 1961-1983

Rowden, Rebecca. *Baptists in Israel: the letters of Paul and Marjorie Rowden, 1952-1957*.
 Nashville, TN: Fields Publishing, 2010.

Owens, Laurella. *Shalom*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1963.

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Arab refugee problem, 1960-1972
- 1.2 Arabs in Israel and occupied territories – Clippings and articles, 1960-1970
- 1.3 Arabs in occupied territories – Clippings and articles, 1971-1974
- 1.4 Association of Baptist Churches in Israel, 2011
- 1.5 Baptist distinctives – Articles and clippings, 1963-1982
- 1.6 Baptist Golden Jubilee – 50 years in Palestine/Israel by Dwight Baker, 1961
- 1.7 Baptists for Freedom, 1962-1963
- 1.8 Bible and Baptists, 1963
- 1.9 Biographical information – Dwight and Emma Baker
- 1.10 Book Reviews
- 1.11 Charismatic Conflict in Israel – Correspondence and clippings, 1975-1976
- 1.12 Charismatic movement – Clippings/Information, 1968-1977

Box 2

- 2.1 Christian Service Training Center – Course information, 1953-1972
- 2.2 Clippings – “I Concur File, 1960-1984
- 2.3 Commission articles – Emma and Dwight Baker
- 2.4 Conference – Bengal Baptist Union, 1982-1983
- 2.5 Conference – “Role of Christians and Muslims in National Development, 1981
- 2.6 Conference – Seminar for Theological Professors and Partners in Community – Christian-Muslim Relations Today, 1982
- 2.7 Correspondence – 1960-1966
- 2.8 Correspondence – 1971-1973
- 2.9 Correspondence – Baptist Convention in Israel, 1977-1979
- 2.10 Correspondence – Binkley, Olin T. [Southeastern Baptist Seminary], 1973
- 2.11 Correspondence – Estes, Joseph R., 1969
- 2.12 Correspondence – Foreign Mission Board, 1960-1972
- 2.13 Correspondence – Foreign Mission Board, 1979-1984
- 2.14 Correspondence – Lee, R. G., 1969-1971

- 2.15 Correspondence – Philippines, 1986-1987
- 2.16 Correspondence – Valentine, Foy, 1969-1972
- 2.17 Elliott Controversy – Clippings, articles, 1962-1963
- 2.18 Elliott Controversy – Clippings, articles, 1962-1963

Box 3

- 3.1 Elliott Controversy – Correspondence, 1962-1968
- 3.2 Exorcism, Spiritism, Satanism, Demonism and Charismatics – Clippings, 1974-1983
- 3.3 Memoirs of Dwight L. Baker, 1920-2011
- 3.4 Nazareth Baptist School – Naming, 2012
- 3.5 Oral History Interview – Baylor University (Excerpts), 1994
- 3.6 Photographs – Emma and Dwight Baker
- 3.7 Religious Liberty in Israel, 1963
- 3.8 Rowden Primary School – Dedication (Nazareth), 1961
- 3.9 Ruminations, 2004
- 3.10 Southern Baptist Convention Controversy – Clippings and articles, 1980-1986
- 3.11 Southern Baptist Convention Controversy – Clippings and articles, 1986-1987
- 3.12 “Southern Baptist’ First 50 years in Palestine and Israel”, 1961
- 2.13 Writings – “People of the Mosque” - 1980