

Inventory to the Joe W. Burton Correspondence

AR 159



Joe W. Burton (left) with J. B. Lawrence, c. 1930s.

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I. Historical Sketch

Joe W. Burton served as the editor of *Home Life* magazine published by the Baptist Sunday School Board from 1947 until his retirement in 1972. Dr. Burton started his career at the Baptist Sunday School Board in 1946, after ten years as Secretary of Education with the Home Mission Board. From 1947-1965, he was secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, and he held pastorates in Texas, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Joe W. Burton was born September 7, 1907 in Miles, Texas, and died in Nashville, Tennessee in 1976. He married Lula Grace Williams, and had three children, Mary Lou, John and Robert. Dr. Burton received his Bachelor of Arts from Hardin-Simmons University, which later presented him with an honorary Doctor of Divinity, and a Master of Theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He did additional work at the University of Missouri's School of Journalism.

II. Scope and Content Note

The Joe W. Burton Correspondence (1958-1963) contains six folders in part of one document box, and is arranged alphabetically. The correspondence deals with issues related to Dr. Burton's role as Secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, primarily procedural issues such as balloting and motion clarifications with limited discussion about racial integration.

Researchers should note that this collection is in the same document box as the Southern Baptist Convention Agency Charters (AR 156).

Robert Turner transferred the materials from the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay) to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (then Historical Commission) in 1966.

III. Folder Listing

Box 1 (*Please note that box also contains Southern Baptist Convention Agency Charters, AR 156*)

- 1.9 Correspondence – Alley, Reuben E. – 1961
- 1.10 Correspondence – Cook, Montague – 1958
- 1.11 Correspondence – Hays, Brooks – 1958
- 1.12 Correspondence – Hobbs, Herschel H. – 1963
- 1.13 Correspondence – Merritt, James W. – 1959
- 1.14 Correspondence – Ramay, M. E. – 1963