Herschel Harold Hobbs Papers
AR 332

Summary
Main Entry: Herschel Harold Hobbs Papers

Date Span: 1949 – 1972

Abstract: The collection documents Hobbs’ duties as pastor and his involvement in denominational life. It includes articles, sermons, correspondence, Baptist World Alliance material, biographical information, book review, Crusade of the Americas material, information on First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, the Ralph Elliott controversy, Oklahoma Baptist Convention, revivals, engagements, denominational agency files, and Oklahoma Baptist University.

Size: 37 linear ft. (68 boxes)

Collection #: AR 332

Historical Sketch
Herschel H. Hobbs (1907 – 1995) was an outstanding Southern Baptist clergyman, author, dynamic speaker, and denominational leader. He pastored churches in Kentucky, Alabama, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. His longest and perhaps most outstanding pastorate was First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Hobbs served Southern Baptists in many ways, including “Baptist Hour,” a weekly radio program sponsored by Southern Baptists. He was a prolific writer, having authored 36 books, many tracts, and articles while serving 40 years as a busy pastor of large churches. His influence has been greatly felt throughout Southern Baptist life. He was president of the Southern Baptist Convention May, 1961 – May 1963 and served on numerous boards and committees. His work as chairman of the “Baptist Faith and Message” committee was particularly outstanding.

Because of his long and valuable work among Southern Baptists, his papers as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, as well as other papers, were requested for the archives of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. The arrangement of the papers is by subject headings. The collection contains 37 linear ft. and approximately 37,400 items. There are also tapes and recordings, including interviews with Hobbs.

Scope and Content Note
The papers date from 1949 –1972, consisting of articles written by Hobbs, “Baptist Hour” sermons and correspondence, Baptist World Alliance materials, biographical information, the manuscript of one of his books (Baptist Faith and Message), correspondence about the many books he authored, book reviews, general correspondence, materials about the Crusade of the Americas, correspondence about the Elliot controversy concerning the book The Message of Genesis, and
materials about the work of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. Also included is material about
his work with Oklahoma Baptist statewide affairs, Oklahoma Baptist University, Oklahoma
country simultaneous crusades (1950 – 1972), revival engagements, other speaking engagements,
and Baptist Education Study Task Materials. One of the largest sections of material is his sermons.
Another section deals with his work as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and as a
member of many boards and committees of the Convention. There is also material about his several

Hobbs’ correspondents include top names in Southern Baptist affairs during these years. His
correspondence reveals Hobbs’ vital involvement in Southern Baptist life, national affairs, state
Baptist affairs, and local Baptist and civic affairs. The general correspondence is arranged
chronologically and includes files explaining doctrinal questions that are interesting and important.
Hobbs was often asked for information on church finance and organization, and he seemed glad to
share his knowledge and experience in these fields. He also included jokes to his friends. His letters
to family and friends in the general correspondence section reveal loving and caring relationships.

The main subjects in the papers are:
Baptist beliefs
Baptist Jubilee Advance
Baptist World Alliance
Broadman Bible Commentary, Vol. 1
Church finances
Cooperative program
Crusade of the Americas
Doctrinal matters
Downtown churches
Elliot controversy about his book on Genesis
Evangelism
Every member canvass
Grading of adults
Ministerial interns
Oklahoma Baptist state affairs
Oklahoma Baptist University
Pastors' Conference of the SBC
Race relations
Religious liberty
Scouting, God and country awards
SBC matters
Southern Baptist Seminary materials
Temperance
30,000 movement

36 Books authored by Hobbs:
The Baptist Faith and Message
Christ in You
Cosmic Drama
Cowards or Conquerors
Crucial Words from Calvary
Epistles to the Corinthians
Eternal Anchors in Life s Storms
Exposition of the Gospel of John
Exposition of the Gospel of Luke
Exposition of the Gospel of Mark
Exposition of the Gospel of Matthew
Fundamentals of Our Faith
The Gospel of Giving
The Gospel of John
The Gospel of Mark
The Gospel of Matthew
History of Clayton St. Baptist Church
The Holy Spirit
How to Follow Jesus
John: a Study Guide Commentary
Life and Times of Jesus
Messages on the Resurrection
More Welcome Speeches
Moses’ Mighty Men
New Testament Evangelism
Preaching Values from the Papyri
Showers of Blessings
Studies in Hebrews
Studying Life and-Work Lessons
The Teachers Bible Commentary  jt. author
The Thessalonian Epistles
They Lived Happily Ever After
Welcome Speeches
What Baptists Believe
When the Rain Falls
Who Is This?

Arrangement
Arranged in alphabetical order by folder title. Correspondence is arranged chronologically

Provenance
Herschel Hobbs, gift, 1975

Preferred Citation
Herschel Harold Hobbs Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions
None
Subject Terms
Routh, Porter Wroe, 1911 – 1987
Cothen, Grady C., 1920 –
Elliott, Ralph, 1925 –
Graham, Billy, 1918 –
Southern Baptist Convention – Presidents
Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Baptist World Alliance
Crusade of the Americas
Oklahoma Baptist Convention
Oklahoma Baptist University
First Baptist Church (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma) – History
Baptist Jubilee Advance
Baptist Hour
Baptists – Oklahoma
Race relations – Religious aspects – Baptists
Baptists – Doctrines
Baptists – Sermons
Prayer in the public schools

Related Materials


Baptist Hour Sermons, AR 695, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives


James Lenox Sullivan Papers, AR 795-354, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Southern Baptist Convention. Baptist Faith and Message Statement Committee Files, AR 153, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

William Wayne Dehoney Papers, AR 880, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
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63.2  SBC, executive committee – subcommittee on commissions, 1960 – 1961
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63.4  SBC, Foreign Mission Board, 1961 – 1962 – Minutes and correspondence
63.5  SBC, Foreign Mission Board, 1962 Minutes
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63.7  SBC, Home Mission Board, 1961 – 1963 – correspondence and history
63.8  SBC, Inter-agency Council-Constitution – Minutes, 1961 – speech on religious freedom
63.9  SBC, Miscellaneous – voting – Hobbs' article “A Former President Speaks His Piece”
63.10 SBC, potential speakers
63.11 SBC, presidential address by Hobbs, 1962, San Francisco
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64.2  SBC, financing and promotion (radio and T.V. Commission, 1953 – 1958)
64.3  SBC, relief and annuity board, 1955 – 1956
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64.5  SBC, resolutions committee, 1965 – Dallas
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64.8  SBC, Sunday School Board – correspondence with J. L. Sullivan, 1963
64.9 SBC, teletypes and telegrams, 1962 – 1963
64.10 SBC, theological education – article “Are Southern Baptists Facing a Theological Revolution?” 1961
64.11 SBC, travel expense account for Hobbs, 1961 – 1962
64.12 Southern Baptist Encyclopedia, 1955 – 1957

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65.7 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – Billy Graham evangelism chair (endowment campaign, 1967 – 1972)
65.8 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary – Living Endowment fund
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65.11 Stewardship revival, 1954

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66.1 Sunday School and Home Mission Week, Glorieta, 1953 – 1954
66.2 Sunday School Board, Broadman Bible Commentary advisory board, 1966 – 1971
66.3 Sunday School Board, Search (correspondence), 1968 – 1970
66.4 Sunday School lesson helps, 1967 – correspondence
66.5 Sunday School lesson helps, 1968 – 1969 – correspondence
66.6 Syllabus to hymnology, by John A. Broadus – paper on worship
66.7 Teacher's Bible Commentary – correspondence, 1970 – 1972
66.8 Temperance, correspondence, and materials, 1949

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67.1 Temperance – alcohol education (SANE)
67.2 Temperance – Americans United, 1968 – 1970 correspondence
67.4 30,000 movement, 1961
67.5 Training Union lessons, adults, Jan. – Mar., 1965
67.6 Trip, 1958 – tour of the Holy Land (archaeology)
67.7 Trip, 1960 – Hong Kong revival and trip around the world
67.8 Trip, 1961 – tour of the Holy Land (Bible teaching)
67.9 Trip, 1962 – to South America, Africa, and Europe
67.10 Trip, 1963 – Tokyo crusade
67.11 Trip, 1969 – tour of Middle East (in the Steps of Jesus and Paul)

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68.1 Trip, 1970 – East Africa evangelism crusade
68.2 Uniform Lesson Series, 1965
68.3 U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, 1961 (Health Insurance Benefits)
68.4 Wedding ceremonies
68.5 Western Missions, 1953 – 1961
68.6 Zondervan Publishing House correspondence, 1961 – 1966
68.7 Zondervan Publishing House correspondence, 1967 – 1972