

INVENTORY TO THE  
JAMES T. DRAPER PAPERS

AR. 607



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

1988

James T. Draper, Jr. Papers  
AR. 607

I. Biographical sketch.

- 1935            Born October 10, 1935 in Hartford, Arkansas son of James T. (a minister) and Lois (Keeling) Draper.
- 1956            Ordained Southern Baptist minister.
- 1956            Married Carol Ann Floyd, July 14, 1956; children: Randy, Bailey, Terri.
- 1956-58        Pastor of Baptist church in Bryan, TX.
- 1958            Graduated from Baylor University, B.A.
- 1958-61        Pastor of Baptist church in Iredell, TX.
- 1961            Graduated Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, B.D.
- 1961-62        Pastor of Baptist church in Tyler, TX.
- 1962-65        Pastor of Baptist church in San Antonio, TX.
- 1965-70        Pastor of Baptist church in Kansas City, MO.
- 1970-73        Pastor of Del City Baptist Church, Del City, OK.
- 1973-75        Associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas, TX.
- 1973            Graduated Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary , M.D.
- 1975-1991     Pastor, First Baptist Church, Euless, TX.
- 1975            Received honorary D.D. degree from Howard Payne University
- 1982-84        Elected President of the Southern Baptist Convention. Re-elected in 1983 for a second term. Draper was viewed as a conservative and his election as president appeared as a victory for the fundamentalist wing of the denomination.

Books:    Authored by James T. Draper, Jr.

- 1974    The Church Christ Approves.
- 1975    Say, Neighbor, Your House Is On Fire
- 1976    Hebrews: The Life That Pleases God
- 1977    Proverbs: The Secret Of Beautiful Living
- 1978    Titus: Patterns for Church Living
- 1979    I and II Thessalonians: The Hope of a Waiting Church
- 1979    Foundations of Biblical Faith
- 1983    The Conscience of a Nation
- 1983    Discover Joy: Studies in Philippians
- 1983    Faith That Works: Studies In James
- 1984    Authority: The Critical Issue for Southern Baptists

## II. Scope and Content

The collection of papers (4 linear feet) consists of the presidential files of Dr. Draper during his two terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1982-1984. The papers consist mainly of correspondence and some informational documents. The correspondence covers a wide range of social, political and theological issues as well as letters relating to the operation of the denomination.

The collection documents the many issues of interest to Southern Baptists. Issues included in the papers are: Lebanon and the Middle East, abortion, women's role in the church, women's ordination, creedal statement, liberalism in Baptist higher education, school prayer, creationism, fundamentalism, the inerrancy debate and nuclear disarmament. Also included is reaction to the policies and positions of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The collection documents some of the theological debates within the Southern Baptist Convention between fundamentalists and moderates. Much of the dispute was based on the belief of the inerrancy of the Bible and the selection of Baptists to various denominational boards, committees, and commissions.

The collection is arranged in much the same manner that it was developed by Dr. Draper. The files are alphabetical, with most of the letters grouped alphabetically. The papers include subject type files on the Baptist Joint Committee, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, etc. There are files on various Convention components, such as the Executive Committee and the Resolutions Committee. Of special interest is the file on the "summit" meeting of denominational leaders to discuss the "political activity, theological differences, and other difficulties in the Southern Baptist Convention." The meeting was held in November 1982.

Also included in the papers are numerous congratulatory letters on his election as president as well as letters of invitations to speak. A folder of strange, nonsensical letters is also found in the papers.

The papers are open to researchers.

## III. Folder Listing

### Box 1 (Folders 1-17)

1. A- Corr. 1982-83
2. A- Corr. 1983-84
3. Africa Trip. April 1984  
Itineraries & Corr.
4. Ampac "summit" meeting
5. Anonymous Letters and Articles
6. "Authority" Book -corr. 12/83 -1/84
7. B- Corr. 1982-83
8. B- Corr. 1983-84
9. Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Corr. & Articles
10. Baptist World Alliance -Corr.
11. Biographical
12. C- Corr. 1982-83
13. C- Corr. 1983-84

14. Committee on Committees 1982-83
15. Committee on Committees 1983-84
16. Congratulatory Letters 1983
17. Congratulatory Letters 1983

Box 2 (Folders 18-39)

18. Congratulatory Letters 1984
19. Creedal Statement Nov. 1983-Jan. 1984
20. D- Corr. 1982-83
21. D- Corr. 1983-84
22. E- Corr. 1982-83
23. E- Corr. 1983-84
24. Executive Committee, SBC Corr. 1982-83
25. Executive Committee 1983-84
26. F- Corr. 1982-83
27. F- Corr. 1983-84
28. Foreign Mission Board -Corr. 1982-83
29. Foreign Mission Board -Corr. 1983-84
30. Frazier, Claude -Materials and Letters 1982-83
31. G- Corr. 1982-83
32. G- Corr. 1983-84
33. H- Corr. 1982-83
34. H- Corr. 1983-84
35. Home Mission Board -Corr. -1982-83
36. Home Mission Board -Corr. 1983-84
37. I- Corr. 1982-84
38. Invitations Declined 1982-83
39. Invitations Declined 1982-83

Box 3

40. Invitations Declined 1983-84
41. Israel Trip 1982-83 Corr. and related articles
42. J- Corr. 1982-83
43. J- Corr. 1983-84
44. K- Corr. 1982-83
45. K- Corr. 1983-84
46. Kook Letters
47. L- Corr. 1982-83
48. L- Corr. 1983-84
49. M- Corr. 1982-83
50. M- Corr. 1983-84
51. Miscellaneous
52. N- Corr. 1982-83
53. N- Corr. 1983-84
54. National Prayer Vigil Feb.-May, 1984
55. P-Q- Corr. 1982-83
56. P-Q- Corr. 1983-84
57. Political Concerns 1982-83
58. Post Convention -Jan. -June 1984  
Includes Corr. Articles, interview
59. Proctor and Gamble 1982-83
60. Prison Fellowship International  
Feb.- Aug. 1984 Corr. and Articles
61. R- Corr. 1982-83
62. R- Corr. 1983-84

63. Radio and Television Commission -Corr. Mar. -Apr., 1984

Box 4 (Folders 64-80)

- 64. Religious Issues 1982-83 Corr. & Articles
- 65. Resolutions Committee, SBC 1983
- 66. S- Corr. 1982-83
- 67. S- Corr. 1982-83
- 68. S- Corr. 1983-84
- 69. Southern Baptist Advocate Oct. 1983
- 70. Southern Baptist Convention -Corr.  
August 1982 -May 1984 Includes Convention Program 1984
- 71. Southern Baptist Convention -1982-83 General Includes Articles, bulletins,  
corr., and ballots
- 72. Southern Baptist Convention -1983 Includes corr., articles and pamphlets
- 73. Sunday School Board- 1982-83 Corr.
- 74. T.U.V. -Corr. 1982-83
- 75. T-U-V- Corr. 1983-84
- 76. W- Corr. 1982-83
- 77. W- Corr. 1983-84
- 78. Women's Ordination Corr. and Articles Mar. -May, 1984
- 79. X-Y-Z- Corr. 1982-84
- 80. Year of the Bible -1983

Photo List

Tyler, Joan  
 Tatum, Sue  
 Vickery, Harry E.  
 McGee, Jimmy  
 Self, Robert E.  
 Armistead, John G.

Removed from collection and placed in Photograph Collection