Inventory of the

Albert McClellan Collection

AR 610

Prepared by Michelle Herr
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
October, 2011
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Albert McClellan Collection
AR 610

Summary
Main Entry: Albert McClellan Collection

Date Span: 1940 – 1991

Abstract: Collection contains files related to Albert McClellan’s service as a staff member in the Southern Baptist Convention from 1949 – 1980. It includes information related to the work of the Peace Committee and Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Size: 16 linear ft. (38 document boxes)

Collection #: AR 610

Biographical Sketch
Southern Baptist denominational leader and longtime staff member of the Southern Baptist Convention, Albert McClellan was born December 22, 1912 in Bowie, Texas. McClellan graduated cum laude from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1939. After receiving his degree, he studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he received a master of theology degree in 1941. McClellan married Mabel Helm, and the couple had two children.

After being ordained at age 18, McClellan began as a part time pastor at a variety of churches in Oklahoma and North Texas. In addition to pastoring and attending college, McClellan spent three years as a rural school teacher. After graduating from Southwestern, he became the full time pastor of First Baptist Church in Waurika, Oklahoma. In 1945, McClellan was named editor of the Baptist Messenger, the Oklahoma state Baptist paper.

In 1949, McClellan joined the Executive Committee staff as director of publications, including responsibility for Baptist Press, the convention’s news service. Ten years later, he accepted the post of program planning secretary for the Executive Committee, a post he held until his retirement in 1980.

In addition to his work with the Executive Committee, McClellan authored 14 books and hundreds of articles about Southern Baptist life and beliefs. McClellan played a key role
in the formation of the committee to draft the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. McClellan’s reputation as a reasonable and calming voice made him an ideal candidate to serve on the Peace Committee during the theological controversies of the late 1970s and 1980s. As a skilled planner, he was a driving force on the Inter-agency Council of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Throughout his life, McClellan felt a deep commitment to his local church and his association, serving in multiple capacities. He died January 9, 2004, at the age of 91.

**Scope and Content Note**
The Albert McClellan Collection consists of correspondence, minutes, clippings, articles, and writings. The material chronicles McClellan’s long service as a staff member in the Southern Baptist Convention’s Executive Committee. The collection focuses on McClellan’s activities as a member of the Peace Committee and the Executive Committee during a time of strife in Southern Baptist life. Also included is extensive correspondence with two colleagues, Jack W. Manning and Sam W. Scantlan. Manning, also from Oklahoma, served as a Baptist pastor, chaplain, and seminary professor. Scantlan served as a Baptist minister, denominational worker in Oklahoma, writer, and poet.

The major topics and issues included in the papers are: the Peace Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist Faith and Message, Bold Mission Thrust, the Cooperative Program, the controversy of the SBC in the 1980’s, and the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**Arrangement**
The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

**Provenance**
Donated by Albert McClellan, 1984.

**Preferred Citation**
Albert McClellan Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Access Restrictions**
None

**Subject Terms**
American Baptist Theological Seminary
Baptist Faith and Message
Baptists – Arizona
Baptists – Sermons
Bold Mission Thrust
Criswell, W. A. (Wallie A.), 1909 – 2002
Crouch, Austin, 1870 – 1957
First Baptist Church (Waurika, OK)
Fuller, Charles
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
Hull, William
Humphreys, Fisher
Immanuel Baptist Church (Nashville, Tenn.)
Manning, Jack W
Maston, Thomas Buford, 1897 – 1988
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Moore, Winfred
Nashville Baptist Association
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Ordination of women
Poe, William E.
Press, Baptist
Rock, C. Vaughn
Routh, Porter Wroe, 1911 – 1987
Scantlan, Sam W.
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Southern Baptist Convention – Controversies
Southern Baptist Convention – Annuity Board
Southern Baptist Convention – Brotherhood Commission
Southern Baptist Convention – Cooperative Program
Southern Baptist Convention – Education Commission
Southern Baptist Convention – Executive Committee
Southern Baptist Convention – Foreign Mission Board
Southern Baptist Convention – Historical Commission
Southern Baptist Convention – Home Mission Board
Southern Baptist Convention – Peace Committee
Southern Baptist Convention – Stewardship Commission
Southern Baptist Convention – Sunday School Board
Southern Baptist Press Association
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
Vestal, Daniel, 1944 –

Related Materials
Peace Committee Press Conference, 1986 – 1987 (sound recording), R934t, R983t
Southern Baptist Convention Proceedings, 1987 (video recording), R60vt SBC 1987
Southern Baptist Convention Controversy Oral History Collection (video recording), R553vt
Container List

Box 1
1.1 Arizona Baptists
1.2 Art Drawn by McClellan
1.3 Articles – Ammerman, Nancy – Mobilizing the Messengers
1.4 Articles – Branscomb, John – If I Should Die Before I Live
1.5 Articles – Dockery, David S. – Theological Diversity and the Parameters of Tolerance
1.6 Articles – Honeycutt, Roy L. – Biblical Authority: A Treasured Heritage
1.8 Articles – Leonard, Bill J. – Southern Baptists: In Search of a Century
1.9 Articles – Shurden, Walter B. – My Interpretation: The Dangers of Fundamentalism
1.10 Articles – Trentham, Charles A. – The Living Word
1.11 Baptist Faith and Message
1.12 Baptist Press
1.13 Biblical Inerrancy
1.14 Biographical Information
1.15 Biographical Information – Clippings
1.16 Book of Remembrance (1)

Box 2
2.1 Book of Remembrance (2)
2.2 Book of Remembrance (3)
2.3 Committee to Review the Perception Study of Southern Seminary, 1980

Box 3
3.2 Cooperative Program
3.3 Correspondence, 1940
3.4 Correspondence, 1949 – 1950
3.5 Correspondence, 1955 – 1959
3.6 Correspondence, 1981
3.7 Correspondence, 1983
3.8 Correspondence, 1985 – 1991
3.9 Correspondence – Fuller, Charles, 1986 – 1988
3.10 Correspondence – Humphreys, Fisher, 1987
3.11 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1941 – 1943
3.12 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1949 – 1959
3.13 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1971

Box 4
4.1 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1972
4.2 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1973
4.3 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1974
4.4 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1975
4.5 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1976
4.6 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1977
4.7 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1978

Box 5
5.1 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1979
5.2 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1980
5.3 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1981
5.4 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1982
5.5 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1983
5.6 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1984

Box 6
6.1 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1985
6.2 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1986
6.3 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1987
6.4 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1988
6.5 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1989
6.6 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1990
6.7 Correspondence – Manning, Jack W., 1991

Box 7
7.1 Correspondence – Maston, T. B., 1986
7.2 Correspondence – Rock, C. Vaughn
7.3 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1943
7.4 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1949
7.5 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1950
7.6 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1951
7.7 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1952
7.8 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1953
7.9 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1954
7.10 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1956
7.11 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1957
7.12 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1958
7.13 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1959
7.14 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1960
7.15 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1961
7.16 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1962
7.17 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1963
7.18 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1964
7.19 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1965
7.20 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1966
7.21 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1967
7.22 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1968
7.23 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1969
7.24 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1970
7.25 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1971
7.26 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1972

Box 8
8.1 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1973
8.2 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1974
8.3 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1975
8.4 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1976
8.5 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1977

Box 9
9.1 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1978
9.2 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1979
9.3 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1980
9.4 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1981
9.5 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1982
9.6 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1983
9.7 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1984

Box 10
10.1 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1985
10.2 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1986
10.3 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1987
10.4 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1988
10.5 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1989
10.6 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1990
10.7 Correspondence – Scantlan, Sam W., 1991
10.8 Criswell, W. A.
10.9 Crouch, Austin

Box 11
11.1 Executive Committee
11.2 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1946
11.3 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1947
11.4 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1948
11.5 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1949
11.6 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1962 – 1963
11.7 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1964 – 1965
11.8 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1966 – 1967

Box 12
12.1 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1968 – 1969
12.2 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1970
12.3 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1971
12.4 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1972 – 1973
12.5 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1974
12.6 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1975
12.7 Executive Committee – Minutes, 1976
12.8 First Baptist Church (Waurika, OK) – Church Directory, 1963
12.9 High School Diploma
12.10 Honors

Box 13
13.1 Hull, William
13.2 Immanuel Baptist Church
13.3 Immanuel Baptist Church – Family News Paper
13.4 Immanuel Baptist Church – Seven Summer Sundays Committee
13.5 Immanuel Baptist Church – Thanksgiving Service, 1977
13.6 Moore, Winfred
13.7 Nashville Baptist Association – Correspondence
13.8 Nashville Baptist Association – Data Base, 1980
13.9 Nashville Baptist Association – Policies and Procedures, 1980
13.10 Ordination of Women
13.11 Peace Committee – Agendas
13.12 Peace Committee – American Baptist Theological Seminary
13.13 Peace Committee – Annuity Board
13.14 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Laity Journal, September, 1985
13.15 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, 1972
13.16 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, 1973
13.17 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, 1981
13.18 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, 1982
13.19 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, 1984
13.20 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, 1985
13.21 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, January, 1986
13.22 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, February, 1986
13.23 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, March, 1986
13.24 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, April, 1986
13.25 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, May, 1986

Box 14
14.1 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, June, 1986
14.2 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, July, 1986
14.3 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, August, 1986
14.4 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, September, 1986
14.5 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, October, 1986
14.6 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, November, 1986
14.7 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, December, 1986
14.8 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, January, 1987
14.9 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, February, 1987
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 15</th>
<th>Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, December, 1987</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, January, 1988</td>
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<td>Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, March, 1991</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
16.8 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, April, 1991
16.9 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptist Press, May, 1991
16.10 Peace Committee – Articles – Baptists Committed
16.11 Peace Committee – Articles – Controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention
16.12 Peace Committee – Articles – Hobbs, Herschel – Status Quo: Analysis of Mess We’re In
16.13 Peace Committee – Articles – Houston Chronicle
16.14 Peace Committee – Articles – Martin, Dan – Peace Committee to Focus on Theology
16.15 Peace Committee – Articles – Montoya, David K. – Trading Principles for Power in the SBC
16.16 Peace Committee – Articles – SBC Takeover Controversy (1)
16.17 Peace Committee – Articles – SBC Takeover Controversy (2)
16.18 Peace Committee – Articles – SBC Takeover Controversy (3)
16.19 Peace Committee – Articles – SBC Takeover Controversy (4)
16.20 Peace Committee – Articles – SBC Takeover Controversy (5)

Box 17
17.1 Peace Committee – Articles – SBC Takeover Controversy (6)
17.2 Peace Committee – Articles – SBC Takeover Controversy (7)
17.3 Peace Committee – Articles – SBC Today
17.4 Peace Committee – Authorization
17.5 Peace Committee – Brotherhood Commission
17.6 Peace Committee – Crowder Complaint
17.7 Peace Committee – Draft Report to the Southern Baptist Convention, 1987 (1)
17.8 Peace Committee – Draft Report to the Southern Baptist Convention, 1987 (2)
17.9 Peace Committee – Education Commission
17.10 Peace Committee – Foreign Mission Board Correspondence, 1986 – 1987
17.11 Peace Committee – Gaddis, Martha T.

Box 18
18.1 Peace Committee – General Correspondence, 1984 – 1985
18.2 Peace Committee – General Correspondence, 1986
18.3 Peace Committee – General Correspondence, 1987 – 1990
18.4 Peace Committee – General Correspondence – Undated
18.5 Peace Committee – Glorieta Prayer Retreat, October 20 – 23, 1986
18.6 Peace Committee – Glorieta Proposals, 1987
18.7 Peace Committee – Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
18.8 Peace Committee – Historical Commission
18.9 Peace Committee – Home Mission Board
18.10 Peace Committee – Letter to Charles Fuller from Paul Pressler
18.11 Peace Committee – Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Box 19
19.1 Peace Committee – Mission Board Sub-Committee
19.2 Peace Committee – Moderates
19.3 Peace Committee – Motions from the Southern Baptist Convention, 1985
19.4 Peace Committee – Motions presented at the Southern Baptist Convention, 1986
19.5 Peace Committee – Negative Designation
19.6 Peace Committee – New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
19.7 Peace Committee – Parliamentarian
19.8 Peace Committee – Photographs – Glorieta, 1986
19.9 Peace Committee – Pickering, Charles
19.10 Peace Committee – Political Activity Subcommittee
19.11 Peace Committee – Preservation
19.12 Peace Committee – Proposal for a Substitute to the SBC
19.13 Peace Committee – Proposals Never Considered
19.14 Peace Committee – Report to the Executive Committee, SBC, 1985
19.15 Peace Committee – Report to the Southern Baptist Convention, 1986
19.16 Peace Committee – Report to the Southern Baptist Convention, 1987
19.17 Peace Committee – Report to the Southern Baptist Convention, 1988
19.18 Peace Committee – Reports – Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1988
19.20 Peace Committee – Seminaries Research, Inerrancy
19.21 Peace Committee – Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Box 20
20.1 Peace Committee – Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1)
20.2 Peace Committee – Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (2)
20.3 Peace Committee – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
20.4 Peace Committee – Stewardship Commission
20.5 Peace Committee – Sunday School Board
20.6 Peace Committee – Surveys
20.7 Peace Committee – Wood, Presnall
20.8 Photographs
20.9 Poe, William E.
20.10 Report of Conference on Associational Missions, 1963
20.12 Routh, Porter
20.13 Scantlan, Sam W. – Autobiography
20.14 Scantlan, Sam W. – Biographical Information
20.15 Southern Baptist Convention Index – Constitutional and By-laws
20.16 Southern Baptist Convention – MAT Proofs, 1948 – 1953
20.17 Southern Baptist Press Association – Report of Special Inquiry

Box 21
21.1 State Baptist Papers – Source Material for an Address by McClellan, 1974
21.3 Vestal, Daniel
21.4 Writings – 60 Little Known Facts
21.5 Writings – ’70 Onward Is Long Range Planning
21.6 Writings – Address Book, 1950s
21.7  Writings – Address Book, 1950s – 1960s

**Box 22**
22.1  Writings – Address Book, 1950s
22.2  Writings – Address Book, 1960s

**Box 23**
23.1  Writings – Address Book, 1960s
23.2  Writings – Address Book, 1960s – 1970s

**Box 24**
24.1  Writings – Address Book, 1960s – 1970s
24.2  Writings – Address Book, 1960s – 1970s

**Box 25**
25.1  Writings – Address Book, 1970s
25.2  Writings – Address Book, 1970

**Box 26**
26.1  Writings – Address Book, 1970s
26.2  Writings – Address Book, 1970

**Box 27**
27.1  Writings – Address Book, 1970s
27.2  Writings – Address Book, 1970s

**Box 28**
28.1  Writings – Address Book, 1970s
28.2  Writings – Address Book, 1970s – 1980s

**Box 29**
29.1  Writings – Address Book, 1971
29.2  Writings – Address Book, 1972
29.3  Writings – Address Book, 1979

**Box 30**
30.1  Writings – Address Book, 1972 – 1977
30.2  Writings – Address Book, 1976 – 1980

**Box 31**
31.2  Writings – Adult Sunday School – VBS Series, 1986
31.3  Writings – Advance Is Up to You, 1950
31.4  Writings – Advance – Together, 1950
31.5  Writings – All Aboard for Oklahoma City, 1949
31.6  Writings – All Together Now!
31.7 Writings – Andrew Potter
31.8 Writings – Anguish of Hope
31.9 Writings – Annuity Board in the Southern Baptist Life
31.10 Writings – Appendix to A Study of Perspectives
31.11 Writings – Assessment of Current Baptist Life, A, 1973
31.12 Writings – Assessment of promotional Methods Used in the Southern Baptist Convention, 1917 – 1957
31.13 Writings – Assemblies in Southern Baptist summers
31.14 Writings – Association and Bold Mission Thrust, The
31.15 Writings – Autobiography
31.16 Writings – Baby Almost Stillborn
31.17 Writings – Baptist Program, October, 1980
31.18 Writings – Baptist Program Writing Book, 1978 – 1980
31.19 Writings – Beginning of Bold Mission Thrust, 1985
31.20 Writings – Be Still and Know that I Am God
31.21 Writings – Bold Mission Thrust of Baptists: Past and Present, 1978
31.22 Writings – Bold Missions Preaching, 1977 – 1979
31.23 Writings – Boy, a Girl and the Junior – Senior Banquet
31.24 Writings – Breaking Silence
31.25 Writings – Brotherhood, 1977
31.26 Writings – Builder, 1954
31.27 Writings – Challenge of Association Administration
31.28 Writings – Challenge to Creativity
31.29 Writings – Children’s Homes
31.30 Writings – Christian Home
31.31 Writings – Coming of Age, 1986
31.32 Writings – Coming of Age to Completion
31.33 Writings – Commitment to Bold Mission Thrust, 1977
31.34 Writings – Comparative Study of the Feeding of the 5000 Synoptic Gospels
31.35 Writings – Comparison of the Synoptic Gospels and the Fourth Gospel, 1944
31.36 Writings – Concerning Salvation
31.37 Writings – Cooperative Movement: Social Ethics
31.38 Writings – Cooperative Program Speaks, 1979

Box 32
32.1 Writings – Cooperative Spirit Among Early Baptists, 1991
32.2 Writings – Cooperative Spirit Harvest Reports, 1991
32.3 Writings – Cooperative Spirit in the Bible, 1991
32.4 Writings – Cooperative Spirit in the Denomination, 1991
32.5 Writings – Criticizing Southern Baptists
32.6 Writings – Dedication to a Great Cause
32.7 Writings – Defining Baptist Polity, 1980
32.8 Writings – Denominational Allocation and Distribution of Cooperative Program Money
32.9 Writings – Denominational Emphasis Planning, Coordinated Promotional Planning, 1979
32.10 Writings – Development of Cooperative Program Promotion in the Southern Baptist Convention, 1845 – 1971
32.11 Writings – Development of Southern Baptist Journalism, 1971
32.12 Writings – Diary, 1958
32.13 Writings – Diary, 1959, 1960
32.14 Writings – Diary, 1961, 1962
32.15 Writings – Diary, 1969, 1970

Box 33
33.1 Writings – Diary, 1971, 1972
33.2 Writings – Disruptive Factors in Baptist Church Life
33.3 Writings – Divine Purpose: World Missions
33.4 Writings – Divine Right of Missions
33.5 Writings – Echoes from the Past
33.6 Writings – Educating Church Members About Baptist Polity
33.7 Writings – Eleven Reasons Why Porter Routh Does Not Exist, Is Not Real, and Therefore Is Not Here
33.8 Writings – Ephesians 3 (Sermon on Missions)
33.9 Writings – Ethics and Southern Baptists, 1979
33.10 Writings – Evaluation of Programs of Southern Baptist Convention Agencies
33.11 Writings – Executive Committee in Southern Baptist Heritage, 1979
33.12 Writings – Faithful Seminary in a Christian Setting, 1976
33.13 Writings – Fellowship of the Successful
33.14 Writings – Fifth Commandment and Prophets
33.15 Writings – Focus Interviews with SBTS Faculty Concerning the Response to Critics, 1983
33.16 Writings – FOCUS on We Are Southern Baptists: How We Grew the Southern Baptist Convention, 1917 – 1957
33.17 Writings – For Expectant Faith
33.18 Writings – For Lynn and Doug
33.19 Writings – For Your Heart Will Always Be Where Your Riches Are
33.20 Writings – Foundational Principles of Baptist Polity, 1987
33.21 Writings – Freedom Indeed
33.22 Writings – Future of Southern Baptist Churches, The
33.23 Writings – Future Southern Baptist Use of Computers
33.24 Writings – Future of Sunday Church Organizations, 1973
33.25 Writings – Galilee of the Gentiles
33.26 Writings – Get Ready for Tomorrow
33.27 Writings – Go to the End of the Row and Scatter Out: Two Notable Stewardship Leaders
33.28 Writings – God Who Touches the Earth to Melt It
33.29 Writings – God’s Crown Prince
33.30 Writings – Great Invisible Task of Pastoral Ministry, 1985
33.31 Writings – Grice and Dowis: Shakers and Movers
33.32 Writings – Hannah, a Great Mother
33.33 Writings – History of the Cooperative Program Budget Allocation
33.34  Writings – Home Life, 1954
33.35  Writings – How Southern Baptists Got Started
33.36  Writings – How the SBC Works
33.37  Writings – How to Make Good When Times Are Bad
33.38  Writings – How to Pick Yourself Up
33.39  Writings – How to Pick Yourself Up When You Fall Flat on Your Face, 1981
33.40  Writings – Hypocrisy as Applied by Jesus to the Pharisees, 1944
33.41  Writings – I Am Not Going to Cry Anymore
33.42  Writings – I Thessalonians 1:2 – 10 (Sermons on Missions)
33.43  Writings – Imagination in the Life of the Preacher
33.44  Writings – Implication of Church Life today for the Future of Religious Education

Box 34

34.1  Writings – Improving Human Relations by Face-to-Face Contacts with Jesus
34.2  Writings – Incredible Event – The Raising of Lazarus
34.3  Writings – Informal Plan for Denominational Planning, 1977
34.5  Writings – Internal Evidence of Gentile Authorship of the Gospel of Luke
34.6  Writings – It Happened Somewhere Around a Parsonage
34.7  Writings – Issues and Trends in the Southern Baptist Convention, 1976
34.8  Writings – Jesus After the Cross
34.9  Writings – Jesus as Communication
34.10  Writings – Knowing What to Do and What Not to Do in Ministry, 1982
34.11  Writings – Laboring of a Baptist History, 1985
34.12  Writings – Lay Minister Tension in the Southern Baptist Convention
34.13  Writings – Leadership Heritage of Southern Baptists, 1696 – 1945, 1984
34.14  Writings – Leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention
34.15  Writings – Learning in the Midst, 1983
34.16  Writings – Let the Dead Alone, 1974
34.17  Writings – Life Magazine’s Service to the Baptists, 1949
34.18  Writings – Like Twin Stars, They Appeared, Soared and Left Lasting Impressions
34.19  Writings – Limitations and Assumptions in Writings a Baptist Theology, 1990
34.20  Writings – Listen! A Message from Baptist Laymen for Laymen, Pastors, Church and Denominational Leaders
34.21  Writings – Living the Spirit of Christ in Faith and Conquest
34.22  Writings – Local Church and Bold Mission Thrust, 1980
34.23  Writings – Look to the Future, 1974
34.24  Writings – Lord’s Prayer (Sermon on Missions)
34.25  Writings – Making of Public Opinion
34.26  Writings – Matthew 9: 37-38 (Sermon on Missions)
34.27  Writings – Meet: Mr. Sunday School, Mr. Training Union, 1986
34.28  Writings – Memorandum on the Formation of the Forward Program of Church Finance
34.29  Writings – Memorial Services for Lester P. Carns
34.30  Writings – Minding Your Own Business, 1980
34.31 Writings – Minister Looks at His Calling
34.32 Writings – Most Astonishing Idea – God Became a Man
34.33 Writings – Mr. Vacation Bible School and Master Storyteller
34.34 Writings – My Ground for Confidence, Romans 8:18 – 30
34.35 Writings – My Visit with Adrian Rogers
34.36 Writings – Myths of Aging
34.37 Writings – Nature of the New Nature
34.38 Writings – New Look at Some Old Rules
34.39 Writings – New State Editor Begins His Task, 1980
34.40 Writings – New That Is to Come
34.41 Writings – Notes, Prayers, etc.
34.42 Writings – Nurture in Southern Baptist Life, 1973
34.43 Writings – One Man in a Rowboat
34.44 Writings – Organization Manual – Southern Baptist Convention, 1961
34.45 Writings – Origin of the Association
34.46 Writings – Our Baptist World Program
34.47 Writings – Outsider’s Perspective of the 1983 Yankelovich Monitor
34.48 Writings – Paul’s Bold Mission
34.49 Writings – Perseverance for Publishing
34.50 Writings – Place of Institutions in Baptist Life, 1986
34.51 Writings – Planning – Initiative, 1973
34.52 Writings – Poetry

Box 35
35.1 Writings – Porter’s Personal Presence
35.2 Writings – Possible 1975 Objectives
35.3 Writings – Possible Danger Signals in Southern Baptist Life, 1976
35.4 Writings – Power of Confidence
35.5 Writings – Prayer in the Gospel of Luke
35.6 Writings – Preacher as Missionary
35.7 Writings – Principles of Baptist Polity for Local Churches
35.8 Writings – Program in the Cooperative Program
35.9 Writings – Programming in the Southern Baptist Convention
35.10 Writings – Progress in Southern Baptist Program Planning, 1961
35.11 Writings – Psalm 2 (Sermon on Missions)
35.12 Writings – Reflections: One Man’s Pilgrimage as a Southern Baptist, 1980
35.13 Writings – Relation of Southern Baptist Convention to Other Baptist Bodies
35.14 Writings – Roots in Southern Baptist Practice and Polity, 1977
35.15 Writings – Scott and Rosalina’s Call to Missions
35.16 Writings – Seeing and Not Seeing
35.17 Writings – Self-Forgiveness
35.18 Writings – Seminary of Tomorrow
35.19 Writings – Seminary Situation in the Southern Baptist Convention, 1976
35.20 Writings – Sermons
35.21 Writings – Sermons – Notes
35.22 Writings – Seven Signs of John’s Gospel
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35.23</td>
<td>Writings – Significant Dates in Southern Baptist Life, 1696 – 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.25</td>
<td>Writings – Simple as a Meeting in a Country Church, 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.26</td>
<td>Writings – Sin of Achan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.27</td>
<td>Writings – Sixty Cooperative Program Facts, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.28</td>
<td>Writings – Solomon Franklin Dowis, 1891 – 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.29</td>
<td>Writings – Some Comments on the Psalms and Sketch of the Life of David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.30</td>
<td>Writings – Some Literary Qualities of John’s Gospel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.31</td>
<td>Writings – Some Uncertain Oral History with a Few True Comments, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.32</td>
<td>Writings – Source of Anti-Denominationalism, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.33</td>
<td>Writings – Southern Baptist Convention, 1965 – 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box 36</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>Writings – Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program, 1925 – 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>Writings – Southern Baptist Convention Today, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.3</td>
<td>Writings – Southern Baptist Support for Their Seminaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>Writings – Southern Baptist Theology Today: An Interview with Albert McClellan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>Writings – Southern Baptists, 1979 – 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>Writings – Southern Baptists and the Issues of the Eighties, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>Writings – Southern Baptists Facing the Issues of the 1980s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>Writings – Southern Baptists Since the End of World War II, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>Writings – Special Program for Home and Foreign Mission Day in Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.10</td>
<td>Writings – Spirit Cooperation in Local Baptist Churches, 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.11</td>
<td>Writings – State Baptist Papers Today, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.12</td>
<td>Writings – Study of Perceptions, A: How Southern Baptists Think and Feel About the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.13</td>
<td>Writings – Tell It Like It Is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.14</td>
<td>Writings – Tension in Baptist Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.15</td>
<td>Writings – Tension in Southern Baptist Life, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.16</td>
<td>Writings – Terrible Meek, Matthew 5:5, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.17</td>
<td>Writings – That Christ May be Shown to Be the Son of God…John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.18</td>
<td>Writings – That the World May Know, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.19</td>
<td>Writings – Three Baptist Messenger Editors, 1928 – 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.20</td>
<td>Writings – Today’s Life-Style vs. Bold Mission Life-Style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.21</td>
<td>Writings – Tomorrow Is Here, 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.22</td>
<td>Writings – Toward Determining the Future Needs of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary School of Religious Education and Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.23</td>
<td>Writings – Trouble in Your Ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.24</td>
<td>Writings – Two Promotional Giants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.25</td>
<td>Writings – Unanswered Questions About the Cooperative Program, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.26</td>
<td>Writings – Understanding Our Common Heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.27</td>
<td>Writings – Untitled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.28</td>
<td>Writings – Untitled, 1950s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.29</td>
<td>Writings – Violence and Prophets’ Voices, 1977</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
36.30 Writings – Waiting for the Sunlight
36.31 Writings – Way to Attend a Convention, 1950
36.32 Writings – What About Baptist Hospitals, 1980
36.33 Writings – What and Why of Bold Mission Encounter ’82, 1981
36.34 Writings – What Are the Basic Difference Between Fundamentalism and Modernism?
36.35 Writings – What God Is Doing Among Southern Baptists
36.36 Writings – What Is a Baptist Association
36.37 Writings – What Is a State Baptist Convention, 1981
36.40 Writings – What It Means to Be a Baptist, 1982
36.41 Writings – What My Pastor Needs to Know About Me

Box 37
37.1 Writings – When Are We Successful as Christians?
37.2 Writings – Why Attend the Southern Baptist Convention
37.3 Writings – Why Do State Conventions Have So Many Agencies?
37.4 Writings – Why I Give Through My Local Church
37.5 Writings – Word Fitly Written
37.6 Writings – Work and Ministry of Our Denominational Press
37.7 Writings – Working Together
37.8 Writings – Writing Book, 1980
37.9 Writings – Years Ahead, 1970
37.10 Writings – Years of Turbulence, 1978 – 1978: A Supplement to Meet Southern Baptists
37.11 Writings – You Can Pay for an Adequate Church Building
37.12 Writings – You Have Just One Life
37.13 Writings – Your Church Should Be Your Pride
37.14 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek, 1967
37.15 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek #1, 1967
37.16 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek #2, 1967
37.17 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek #3, 1967

Box 38
38.1 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek #4, 1967
38.2 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek #5, 1967
38.3 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek #6, 1967
38.4 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek #7, 1967
38.5 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek #8, 1967
38.6 Recordings, Audio – Scantlan, Sam W. – Falls Creek #9, 1967