HOME MISSION BOARD
COMMUNICATION DIVISION
COLLECTION
AR 631 – 7

Griffith, Luther Orba (L. O.), Director, Communication Division, Home Mission Board, 1959 – 1971.

Prepared by: Dorothy A. Davis
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
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Home Mission Board
Communications Division Collection

AR 631 – 7

Summary
Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Home Mission Board. Communications Division Collection

Date Span: 1948 – 1977

Abstract: The Communications Division of the Home Mission Board promotes mission efforts in the United States by providing churches, associations, state conventions, and other Southern Baptist agencies with plans, materials, and information. It began in 1959, as the Division of Education and Promotion, and grew to involve Art Services, Audiovisuals, Editorial Services, and Promotions. It then became the Materials Production Department, Media Department, and Periodicals Department. Materials in the collection include articles, clippings, correspondence, minutes, pamphlets, and reports.

Size: 4.5 linear ft. (6 boxes)

Collection #: AR 631 – 7

Historical Sketch
The Communication Division of the Home Mission Board began in 1959 as the Division of Education and Promotion. Renamed the Communication Division in 1966, departments included in the Division were the Department of Editorial Services, Department of Missionary Education, Audiovisuals Department, and Art Services Department. The objective for the division was, “to provide plans, materials, and information to churches, associations, state conventions, and other Southern Baptist Convention agencies in the support of and involvement in missions in the homeland.” In 1988, a reorganization of the Art Services Department, Audiovisuals Department, Editorial Services, and Promotion Department (Department of Missionary Education), changed into the Materials Production Department, Media Department, and Periodicals Department.

Dr. Luther Orba (L. O.) Griffith became the director of the Communication Division in 1959 and remained in the position until his retirement in 1971. He came to the Home Mission Board after serving as Associate Executive Secretary for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He was a graduate of Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky (with a Bachelor of Arts) and Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky (with a Master of Theology and Doctor of Divinity). Dr. Griffith was a pastor in Kentucky for about twenty years before his work with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. After his retirement from the Communication Division, Dr. Griffith pastored Faith Baptist Mission, Stockbridge, Georgia from 1972 – 1976, which reconstituted as Griffith Memorial Baptist Church in honor of Dr. Griffith. James M. Sapp succeeded Dr.
Griffith, as director of the Communication Division, and was then followed by Kenneth Day in 1979.

**Scope and Content Note**
The Home Mission Board Communication Division Collection (1948 – 1977) contains four and one-half linear feet of materials. Materials included in the collection are articles, clippings, correspondence, minutes, pamphlets, and reports, which are arranged alphabetically by subject.

The collection comes from the files of Luther Orba (L. O.) Griffith, during his tenure as Communication Division director (1959 – 1971), with some additional files from his successor, James M. Sapp. The two series are arranged chronologically based on tenure and then alphabetically by subject within the respective series. Subjects addressed in the collection include: Cuban missions, Jewish missions, juvenile rehabilitation, migrant missions, mountain missions, National Baptists, Panama, pioneer missions, program planning, San Blas Indians, schools of missions (later world missions conferences), and student work. Some additional materials come from Courts Redford, who was the Executive Secretary of the Home Mission Board.

Researchers should refer to the Home Mission Board Department of Missionary Education Collection (AR 631 – 5) and the Home Mission Board Editorial Services Department Collection (AR 631 – 8) for additional information related to the Communication Division.

**Arrangement**
Arranged chronologically then alphabetically by subject within the series

**Provenance**
The North American Mission Board donated the collection to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in 2004.

**Preferred Citation**
Home Mission Board Communication Division Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

**Access Restrictions**
None

**Subject Terms**
Griffith, Luther Orba
Sapp, James Morrison
Day, Kenneth
Redford, Courts, 1898 – 1977
Missions – Cuba
Missions – Panama
Home missions
City missions
Mountain missions
Cuna Indians
Language missions
Literacy missions
Race relations – Baptists
Church work with migrant labor
Evangelistic work – United States
Project 500

Related Materials
Home Mission Board. Publications/Promotion Collection. AR 631-20
Home Mission Board. Historical Collection. AR 631-13
Home Missions [serial]
Missions USA [serial]

Series Outline

I. Griffith, L. O. (Box 1-5)
II. Sapp, James M. (Box 5)

Container List

I. Griffith, L. O.

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1.2 Associational Missions – Publications
1.3 Background Papers – Baker, Robert A. – “Historic Principles by Which Southern Baptist Have Conducted the Work of Home Missions”
1.4 Background Papers – Bennett, Harold C. – “Why Southern Baptists Conduct Home Missions”
1.5 Background Papers – “The History, Objectives, Structure and Relation of the Division of Evangelism of the Home Mission Board”
1.6 Background Papers – Knight, Walker L. – “The Home Mission Scene Today—What is Happening”
1.7 Baptist Sunday School Board – Memo to Home Mission Board Personnel, 1964
1.8 Biographical Sketch – Lawrence, John B. (For Such a Time by Phyllis Sapp) – 1953
1.9 Brentlinger, Roy W. – Correspondence – 1961
1.10 Chaplaincy Missions – Military Personnel
1.11 Chaplaincy Missions – Publications
1.12 Church Evangelism – Publications
1.13 Church Growth
1.14 Church Planting – Guide for Establishing Missions and Churches
1.15 Church Planting – Missionary Education Council Minutes, 1956 – 1957
1.17 Correspondence Bible Course – Pamphlets
1.18 Correspondence – Caylor, John, 1953
1.19 Correspondence – Woolley, Davis C.
1.20 Cuban Missions – Articles – “Baptist of Western Cuba sends Greetings to the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Annual Meeting” – Herbert Caudill
1.21 Cuban Missions – Caudills and Fites Imprisonment – Clippings, 1966 – 1970 (1 of 2)
1.22 Cuban Missions – Caudills and Fites Imprisonment – Clipping, 1966 – 1970 (2 of 2)
1.23 Cuban Missions – Caudills and Fites Imprisonment – Correspondence, 1961 – 1966
1.24 Cuban Missions – Caudills and Fites Imprisonment – Interview, 1970
1.25 Cuban Missions – Pamphlets
1.26 Cuban Missions – Posters
1.27 Cuban Refugees – Clippings
1.28 Cuban Refugees – Correspondence, 1961 – 1963
1.29 Cuban Refugees – Filmstrip Scripts
1.30 Cuban Refugees – Pamphlets
1.31 Cuban Refugees – Plan for Promoting the Cuban Refugee Program, 1962
1.32 Cuban Refugees – Story of Miguel Lopez
1.33 Cults
1.34 Deaf Missions – Correspondence – (1 of 2)
1.35 Deaf Missions – Correspondence – (2 of 2)
1.36 Deaf Missions – Pamphlets
1.37 Deaf Missions – Slides
1.38 DuBose, Francis M. – Correspondence, 1961
1.39 Garcia, Matias – Correspondence
1.40 Girls in Action – Publications
1.41 Goodwill Centers – Brantley, Clovis A. – “The Rescue Mission”
1.42 Goodwill Centers – Clipping, 1959 – 1970
1.43 Goodwill Centers – Conference – Minutes, 1950, 1954

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2.6 Goodwill Centers – Publications
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2.8 Goodwill Centers – Richmond, Virginia
2.9 Goodwill Centers – Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center
2.10 Goodwill Centers – South Carolina, 1957
2.11 Hansen, William H. – (Alaska Baptist Convention)
2.12 Hawaii – Conversation of Arthur B. Rutledge and Veryl Henderson
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2.14 Hawaii – Pamphlets
M. Wendell Belew, 1961

2.16 Hill, Ben N. (General Missionary) – Correspondence, 1948 – 1959


2.18 History – Clippings

2.19 History – Coker, Denton R. – “Background and History of Southern Baptist Home Mission Work”

2.20 History – “A Compilation of Resource Papers on the Background and History of Southern Baptist Home Mission Work”, 1964

2.21 History – Culpepper, Hugo – “A Resource Paper on the Background and History of Southern Baptist Home Mission Work”

2.22 History – Falls, Helen E. – “Background and History of Southern Baptist Home Missions”


2.24 History – General Information


2.26 History – Guy, Cal – “Background Paper for Home Mission Board”

2.27 History – Hunke, Edmund William, Jr. – “Background and History of the Home Mission Board”


2.30 History – May, Lynn – “Those Days in May, 1845—What Happened in Atlanta”

2.31 History – Pamphlets

2.32 History – Tichenor, I. T. – “Brief History of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention”

2.33 Home Mission Board – Building – General Information

2.34 Home Mission Board – Building – Lease Agreements

2.35 Home Mission Board – Building – Outdoor Sign

2.36 Home Mission Board – Building – Programs

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2.41 Indiana

2.42 Jewish Missions – Articles – Whyte, Lloyd N. – “Presenting Jesus to a Jew”

2.43 Jewish Missions – Articles – Whyte, Lloyd N. – “Your Jewish Neighbors”

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2.45 Jewish Missions – Clippings

2.46 Jewish Missions – Correspondence, 1956

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2.48 Jewish Missions – Pamphlets

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2.53 Juvenile Rehabilitation – Union Baptist Association (Houston, Texas) Juvenile Work Program – Ross E. Dillon and C. W. Hawkes
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2.56 Language Missions – Articles – Corder, Loyd – “New Frontiers in Language Missions”
2.57 Language Missions – Articles – Dawson, Irvin – “Language Missions Week”
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3.25 Mountain Missions – Annual Conference – Robert Theobald and Edward Hughes
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| 3.29 | Mountain Missions – By-laws of the Council of the Southern Mountains, Inc. |
| 3.29 | Mountain Missions – Clippings |
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| 3.33 | Mountain Missions – *The Mountain Voice* (Clear Creek Baptist School), 1968 |
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| 3.35 | Mountain Missions – Posters |
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| 3.37 | Mountain Missions – The Southern Appalachian Attitude Survey, 1959 |
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| 3.54 | National Baptists – Statement Concerning the Crisis in Our Nation, 1968 |
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4.13 Pioneer Missions – History of Champlain Valley Southern Baptist Church, Plattsburgh, New York
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4.16 Pioneer Missions – Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, South Burlington Baptist Church, Vermont, 1964
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II. Sapp, James M.

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