

Inventory to the Grady Cothen Papers

AR 795-373



Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

March, 2009

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I. Biographical Sketch

Grady Cothen was born in Poplarville, Pearl River County, Mississippi, on August 2, 1920. His parents were Rev. Joseph H. Cothen and Mamie Coulter Cothen. He graduated from Hattiesburg High School in 1938 and Mississippi College in 1941. Cothen received the M.C.T. degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1944. He received honorary doctorates from California Baptist College, Mississippi College, and William Jewel College.

Cothen served as pastor of the White Oak Baptist Church in Chattanooga (1946-1948), Olivet Baptist Church, Oklahoma City (1948-1955), and First Baptist, Birmingham (1959-1961). From 1961-1966, he was Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California. Cothen became President of Oklahoma Baptist University and served from 1966-1970. He was selected as President of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1970. In May of 1974, he came to the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as President-elect. In February of 1975, he was inaugurated as the sixth executive of the Board.

Dr. Cothen married the former Bettye Major, on June 11, 1941, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

II. Scope and Content Note

The Grady Cothen Collection includes three linear feet of material in two records center boxes. The majority of the collection consists of articles and addresses Cothen presented as President of the Sunday School Board. The collection also includes copies of programs of which Dr. Cothen was a participant, newspaper clippings, and information on Cothen's selection as BSSB President and his retirement.

Official files of Dr. Cothen are located in the records of the Executive Office, AR 354. See also a series of oral history interviews conducted with Dr. Cothen, R5379. The Special Collections at Samford University has 12 linear ft. of Grady Cothen personal papers.

III. Manuscript Listing

Box 1

- 1 Articles - Anniversary, SSB, 1983
- 2 Articles - *Baptist History and Heritage*
- 3 Articles - "Baptists in the Lunar Age"
- 4 Articles - "Bringing the Bible to Man"
- 5 Articles - "Christian Higher Education's Finest Hour"
- 6 Articles - "Christian Theology and Hope"
- 7 Articles - "Christian Theology Looks at Man"
- 8 Articles - "Cogitations"
- 9 Articles - "Condition of Human Existence"
- 10 Articles - Dobbins' Book Forward
- 11 Articles - Educator Interview
- 12 Articles - "From Dream to Reality"
- 13 Articles - "God's Book and My Church in Bold Missions," SBC, 1978
- 14 Articles - "Higher Education and Christian Faith"
- 15 Articles - "Implications of the Doctrine of Christology"
- 16 Articles - "Inundation by Society"
- 17 Articles - "Leadership Training for Evangelism and Christian Education"
- 18 Articles - "Lectures on Christian Theology," Stetson University, 1976
- 19 Articles - "Mission in the Context of Reality"
- 20 Articles - "New Pathways in Denominational Understanding"
- 21 Articles - "Now I'm Scared"
- 22 Articles - State of the Board 1983
- 23 Articles - State Office Workers, address, 1983
- 24 Articles - "Them and Us"
- 25 Articles - "Toward a Philosophy of Christian Higher Education"
- 26 Articles - "View from the 11th floor" 90th Anniversary
- 27 Articles - "What is the Christian Dimension?"
- 28 Articles - "What Price Credibility"
- 29 Articles - "Working Model of a Christian College"
- 30 Christmas Cards / Invitations
- 31 Clippings
- 32 Cothen, Bettye
- 33 Installation / Selection
- 34 Periodical Art and Content Guidelines
- 35 Programs, 1975
- 36 Programs, 1976
- 37 Programs, 1977
- 38 Programs, 1978
- 39 Programs, 1979
- 40 Programs, 1979 - Nigeria
- 41 Programs, 1980
- 42 Programs, 1981

- 43 Programs, 1982
- 44 Programs, 1983
- 45 Retirement, Sunday School Board
- 46 Retirement, Lesch Article
- 47 Retirement – Program
- 48 Shurder, Walter - “Relating to the Diversity of Southern Baptists,” Sunday School Board
90th Anniversary
- 49 White Oak Baptist Church - clipping

Box 2

Sunday School Board publication with final tribute to Dr. Cothen, many with color photographs of Dr. and Mrs. Cothen.

