

Inventory to the
THOMAS D. ELLIFF PAPERS

AR 828



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THOMAS D. ELLIFF PAPERS

AR-828

I. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas D. Elliff was born on February 21, 1944 in Paris, Texas and became a third generation pastor. Both his father and grandfather had served as pastors and Associational Directors of Missions.

Elliff attended Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas where he received a B.A. in History in 1966. Elliff earned the Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1971. Elliff received two honorary doctorate degrees—the Doctor of Sacred Theology from Southwestern Baptist University and the Doctor of Divinity from Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

During his college and seminary days, Elliff served a total of four churches in Arkansas and Texas. From 1981 to 1983 he served as a missionary through the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Elliff accepted the pastorate of the First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Oklahoma in 1985.

Elliff served in a variety of Associational and State Convention capacities and led many crusades and conferences all over the world. In 1996 Elliff was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention at New Orleans, Louisiana and was re-elected in 1997 at Dallas, Texas. Elliff has authored four books.

Thomas Elliff married Jeannie Thomas on August 20, 1966 and has four children and ten grandchildren.

II. SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTES

The Thomas D. Elliff papers are 3.75 linear feet and cover the years 1996 to 1998. The papers were donated by Dr. Elliff to the Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives as a contribution to the papers of Southern Baptist Convention presidents and were received in March of 2001. No additions are expected to this collection. The collection is primarily comprised of correspondence. The bulk of the correspondence concerns the 1997 SBC resolution calling for Southern Baptists to boycott the Disney Company and any other "...company that promotes immoral ideologies and practices." The overwhelming majority of the letters are from members of the American Family Association all of whom were in support of the SBC boycott of Disney. Other "issues" are included in the collection besides the Disney boycott such as partial birth abortion.

The collection contains other correspondence from Baptist leaders, most of which is congratulatory in nature. Correspondence includes three United States presidents—Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. Dr. Elliff's 1997 and 1998 presidential addresses are included in the collection, as well as magazine articles written by or about Dr. Elliff.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by folders. The Disney correspondence is separate from the general correspondence. A subdivision within the Disney section includes correspondence from Roman Catholics concerning the Disney boycott.

III. REFERENCES

Annual of the Southern Baptist Convention 1997

Elliff, Thomas. *Praying for Others*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1978.

Elliff, Thomas. *The Pathway to God's Presence*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1990.

Elliff, Thomas. *America on the Edge*. Oklahoma City: NCM Press, 1992.

Elliff, Thomas. *A Passion for Prayer*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1998.

Thomas Elliff Papers—Biographical Sketch—Elliff, Thomas D. Box 1

IV. FOLDER LISTINGS

Box 1

- 1.1 Abortion—Partial Birth Press Statement & Letter to President Clinton 1996-1997
- 1.2 Articles Thomas Elliff 1996-1998
- 1.3 Biographical Sketch—Elliff, Thomas D.
- 1.4 Clippings—Various State Papers 1997
- 1.5 Convocations on Prayer at Our Seminaries—1996
- 1.6 Correspondence “A” 1996-1998
- 1.7 Correspondence “B” 1996-1998
- 1.8 Correspondence—Bush, George W. 1997
- 1.9 Correspondence “C” 1996-1998
- 1.10 Correspondence—Carter, Jimmy—November 1997 to March 1998
- 1.11 Correspondence “D” 1996-1998
- 1.12 Correspondence “E” 1996-1998

- 1.13 Correspondence "F" 1996-1998
- 1.14 Correspondence "G" 1996-1998
- 1.15 Correspondence "H" 1996-1998
- 1.16 Correspondence "I" 1996-1998
- 1.17 Correspondence "J" 1996-1998
- 1.18 Correspondence "K" 1996-1998
- 1.19 Correspondence "L" 1996-1998
- 1.20 Correspondence "M" 1996-1998
- 1.21 Correspondence "N" 1996-1998
- 1.22 Correspondence "O" 1996-1998
- 1.23 Correspondence "P" 1996-1998
- 1.24 Correspondence "R" 1996-1998
- 1.25 Correspondence "S" 1996-1998
- 1.26 Correspondence "T" 1996-1998
- 1.27 Correspondence "V" 1996-1998
- 1.28 Correspondence "W" 1996-1998
- 1.29 Correspondence "X, Y & Z" 1996-1998
- 1.30 Correspondence—Disney—Anonymous 1997
- 1.31 Correspondence—Disney "A" 1997
- 1.32 Correspondence—Disney "B" 1997 Folder 1
- 1.33 Correspondence—Disney "B" 1997 Folder 2
- 1.34 Correspondence—Disney "B" 1997 Folder 3
- 1.35 Correspondence—Disney "B" 1997 Folder 4

- 1.36 Correspondence—Disney “C” 1997 Folder 1
- 1.37 Correspondence—Disney “C” 1997 Folder 2
- 1.38 Correspondence—Disney “C” 1997 Folder 3
- 1.39 Correspondence—Disney “D” 1997 Folder 1
- 1.40 Correspondence—Disney “D” 1997 Folder 2
- 1.41 Correspondence—Disney “E” 1997

Box 2

- 2.1 Correspondence—Disney “F” 1997
- 2.2 Correspondence—Disney “G” 1997 Folder 1
- 2.3 Correspondence—Disney “G” 1997 Folder 2
- 2.4 Correspondence—Disney “H” 1997 Folder 1
- 2.5 Correspondence—Disney “H” 1997 Folder 2
- 2.6 Correspondence—Disney “H” 1997 Folder 3
- 2.7 Correspondence—Disney “I” 1997
- 2.8 Correspondence—Disney “J” 1997
- 2.9 Correspondence—Disney “K” 1997 Folder 1
- 2.10 Correspondence—Disney “K” 1997 Folder 2
- 2.11 Correspondence—Disney “L” 1997 Folder 1
- 2.12 Correspondence—Disney “L” 1997 Folder 2
- 2.13 Correspondence—Disney “Mc” 1997
- 2.14 Correspondence—Disney “M” 1997 Folder 1
- 2.15 Correspondence—Disney “M” 1997 Folder 2
- 2.16 Correspondence—Disney “M” 1997 Folder 3

- 2.17 Correspondence—Disney “N” 1997
- 2.18 Correspondence—Disney “O” 1997
- 2.19 Correspondence—Disney “P” 1997 Folder 1
- 2.20 Correspondence—Disney “P” 1997 Folder 2
- 2.21 Correspondence—Disney “Q” 1997

Box 3

- 3.1 Correspondence—Disney “R” 1997 Folder 1
- 3.2 Correspondence—Disney “R” 1997 Folder 2
- 3.3 Correspondence—Disney “S” 1997 Folder 1
- 3.4 Correspondence—Disney “S” 1997 Folder 2
- 3.5 Correspondence—Disney “S” 1997 Folder 3
- 3.6 Correspondence—Disney “S” 1997 Folder 4
- 3.7 Correspondence—Disney “T” 1997
- 3.8 Correspondence—Disney “U” 1997
- 3.9 Correspondence—Disney “V” 1997
- 3.10 Correspondence—Disney “W” 1997 Folder 1
- 3.11 Correspondence—Disney “W” 1997 Folder 2
- 3.12 Correspondence—Disney “W” 1997 Folder 3
- 3.13 Correspondence—Disney “Y” 1997
- 3.14 Correspondence—Disney “Z” 1997
- 3.15 Correspondence—Disney—Roman Catholic “A” to “L” 1997
- 3.16 Correspondence—Disney—Roman Catholic “M” to “Z” 1997

- 3.17 Correspondence—Jewish Evangelism 1996
- 3.18 Executive Committee Minutes—September 22-24, 1997
- 3.19 SBC Presidential Address—Dallas 1997
- 3.20 SBC Program & Bulletins—Dallas 1997
- 3.21 SBC Presidential Address—Salt Lake City 1998
- 3.22 SBC Program & Bulletins—Salt Lake City 1998