

# JERRY VINES PAPERS

AR 738



Southern Baptist Historical Library Archives

1992

Updated February, 2019

# Jerry Vines Papers

## AR 738

### Summary

Main Entry: Jerry Vines Papers

Date Span: 1988 - 1990

Abstract: Southern Baptist minister and denominational leader. Vines served as president of Southern Baptist Convention from 1988 to 1990. The collection contains files and correspondence related to his tenure as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The papers include opinions and questions concerning issues such as abortion, women's ordination, priesthood of believers, agencies of the Convention, and controversy within the Convention.

Size: 3.5 linear ft. (4 boxes)

Collection #: AR 738

### Biographical Sketch

Jerry Vines was born September 22, 1937 in Carroll County, Georgia. He graduated from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, in 1959, and received his B.D. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1966 and his Th.D. from Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Florida, in 1974. He married Janet Denney Vines, and the couple has four children.

Vines served as pastor of Second Baptist Church, Cedartown, Georgia (1963 – 1966); First Baptist Church, Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia (1966 – 1968); Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Alabama (1975 – 1979); West Rome Baptist Church, Rome, Georgia (1968 – 1974 and 1979 – 1991); and First Baptist, Jacksonville, Florida (1981- ). Vines was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1988 in San Antonio, Texas, and he was re-elected in 1989 at the SBC in Las Vegas.

Jerry Vines is the author of A Practical Guide to Sermon Preparation, An Effective Guide to Sermon Delivery, Great Events in Life of Christ, I Shall Return...Jesus, God Speaks Today, Interviews with Jesus, Fire in the Pulpit, and Acts Alive (Sunday School Lessons).

### Scope and Content Note

The collection contains correspondence and other material from Vines' term as Southern Baptist Convention President from 1988 – 1990. Vines, who was re-elected in 1989, served during a controversial time in SBC history. His election marked the tenth consecutive victory for conservatives in what supporters called the "conservative resurgence" and what detractors termed the "fundamentalist takeover" in the SBC.

Included in the papers is extensive correspondence with Southern Baptist pastors, laypersons, agency heads, and seminary presidents, as well as letters critical of Vines' position on issues such

as the controversial “Priesthood of the Believer” resolution, passed at the San Antonio Convention. Two folders titled “Larry Holly” contain correspondence on a variety of SBC issues, including Sunday School Board leadership, and papers including “An Analysis of the Southern Baptist Alliance” and “The Sanctity of Human Life.”

Other controversial issues during Vines’ presidency include protests against the film “The Last Temptation of Christ,” the relationship of the SBC to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Lloyd Elder’s presidency at the Sunday School Board, abortion, and women’s ordination. Two folders marked “White House” include correspondence with Miriam Bell, associate director of the Office of Public Liaison under Reagan and Doug Wead, Special Assistant to the President for Public Liaison under George Bush; a copy of a letter to President Ronald Reagan thanking him for the chance to attend a state dinner and emphasizing Vines’ support for Reagan’s leadership; and a letter from Reagan to Vines on fighting drug abuse.

The papers are arranged alphabetically by subject, then chronologically within each subject, and contains 3.5 linear feet of material. The Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (SBHLA) received the papers from Jerry Vines September 17, 1990. The papers are open to researchers at the SBHLA.

#### **Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each subject

#### **Provenance**

Donated to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives by Jerry Vines, September 17, 1990

#### **Preferred Citation**

Jerry Vines Papers, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

#### **Access Restrictions**

Access to correspondence requires permission from Jerry Vines until his death. After that time the collection will be open to researchers without restrictions.

#### **Subject Terms**

Holly, Larry  
 Southern Baptist Convention  
 Southern Baptist Convention. Sunday School Board  
 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs  
 Church controversies – Baptists – 20<sup>th</sup> century  
 Abortion – Religious aspects  
 Priesthood, Universal  
 Ordination of women

### **Related Material**

For further information on Jerry Vines in the SBHLA, see the Baptist History File under Vines; “A Baptist and His Bible,” by Jerry Vines (Pamphlet 3951); and books by Vines: Fire in the Pulpit (BV 3797.V56.F57.1977), Interviews with Jesus (BT 340.V5.1981), Wanted: Soul Winners (BV 3797.V56.W36.1989), and Wanted: Church Growers (BV 652.25.V56.1990). See also Southern Baptist Convention Annuals and Baptist Press releases for the years 1988 – 1990.

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