3-16-2022

Clois Fowler Collection, 1920-2012

Lester Clois Fowler

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Lester Clois Fowler
Papers, (1920-2003)

Center for Restoration Studies
Manuscripts #92

Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives
Brown Library
Abilene Christian University
Abilene, TX  79699-9208

16 March 2022
About this collection
Title: Lester Clois Fowler Papers

Creator: Lester Clois Fowler, (1928-2012)

Identifier/Call Number: Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #92

Physical Description: 3 linear feet (4 boxes)

Dates (Inclusive): 1920-2012

Dates (Bulk): 1970s

Location: Center for Restoration Studies

Language of Materials: English

Scope and Content Note: This collection contains papers collected by or pertaining to Lester Clois Fowler. The majority of the collection contains papers and materials relevant to Highland Church of Christ and Herald of Truth. The collection also contains financial documents, documents pertaining to ACU, newspapers, various religious materials (church bulletins, study materials, and bible class materials), and some of Fowler's personal papers and items. Also included are audio recordings (on cassette tape and records). The collection housed various periodicals, pamphlets, and booklets upon arrival; these items have been removed and processed accordingly along with several records. In addition, one print of the Restoration Movement leaders is included.

Biographical Note: Lester Clois Fowler was born in Vernon, Texas June 26, 1928. Fowler graduated from high school in Vernon and from Texas Tech University in 1949 with a degree in Business Administration. He was on athletic scholarship for all 4 years, and served as athletic trainer for both the football and track teams. After graduation, he returned to Vernon to be Office Manager for an insurance company. He also volunteered as Youth Minister at the Houston and Pease Street Church of Christ in Vernon – a position that provided him both experience and a life-long mate, as he married one of the young women in his church upon her graduation from high school. Clois married Betty Sue Standlee July 31, 1953 in Vernon. In 1958, after a time as Education Minister for the church, he and Betty moved to Abilene. He initially worked as Office Manager for Bailey Choate, a homebuilder.

He next worked for Fidelity Advertising Agency, and then in 1966 became Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of Herald of Truth Radio and Television Ministries, a worldwide media outreach based in Abilene. He continued in that role until 1991 and, upon retirement, became Wills and Trust Officer for the ministry, serving an additional 10 years in that capacity. He and Wally Bullington worked together for 11 years in managing Family Conferences sponsored by the Herald of Truth Ministry.
A member of the Highland Church of Christ for 54 years, he served as Elder for 25 years. He served on the Facilities Committee and on the founding boards for Christian Homes of Abilene, and Disability Resources, Inc. when they were created. Fowler died September 15, 2012.

Administrative Information
Immediate Source of Acquisition: Family of Lester Clois Fowler
Date of Acquisition: 2013
Accession Number: R2013.010
Date of Accession: 25 July 2013
Accessioned by: Matthew Stephens
Processor and Date of Processing: Audrey Schaffner, 10 April 2014
Finding Aid Creator and Date: Audrey Schaffner, 10 April 2014
Finding Aid Update: Mac Ice and Amanda Dietz, 17 March 2022
Using this collection

Processing Status: Processed

Conditions Governing Access: Materials are housed in the Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and are non-circulating. Access is available during normal business hours; prior appointments are preferred.

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Arrangement of Materials: The papers are in nine series:
Series I: Herald of Truth
Series II: Highland Church of Christ
Series III: Financial Material
Series IV: ACU Material
Series V: Religious Materials
Series VI: Personal Papers/Correspondence
Series VII: Periodicals, Pamphlets, and Booklets
Series VIII: Audio - Records and Cassette Tapes
Series IX: Newspapers and Advertisements

Subjects and Keywords
Churches of Christ -- History -- 20th century
Churches of Christ -- Texas – Abilene
Manuscripts
Inventory

Series I: Herald of Truth
Folder 1: Correspondence
Folder 2: Miscellaneous Pamphlets and Newsletters
Folder 3: Newsletters and 1973 Special Report
Folder 4: Archives 1992
Folder 5: Herald of Truth Notebook; Part 1 of 2
Folder 6: Herald of Truth Notebook; Part 2 of 2

Series II: Highland Church of Christ
Folder 1: Bulletins 1959-2000
Folder 2: Miscellaneous Pamphlets
Folder 3: Church Directories
Folder 4: Minutes of Highland Church of Christ 1929-1949
Folder 5: God – The Holy Spirit
Folder 6: Holy Spirit Study
Folder 7: “The Holy Spirit and I” – Jo Bass
Folder 8: Correspondence Highland Elders 1973
Folder 10: Highland Special Report on Herald of Truth 1973
Folder 11: Highlands “Special Report” reply by E.R. Harper
Folder 12: 1973 Letter from David Lipscomb College
Folder 14: Baxter, Elders, Harper, Highland Notebook; Part 2 of 3
Folder 15: Baxter, Elders, Harper, Highland Notebook; Part 3 of 3

Series III: Financial Material
Folder 1: Bowen Family Financial Statements: General Ledger for 2002
Folder 2: Bowen Family Meeting #3 - January 23-24, 2003
Folder 3: Living with a Legacy: Bowen Family Meeting - April 18, 2003
Folder 4: Bowen Wind Power – May 21, 2003
Folder 5: Bowen Family Meetings - June 5, 2003 and August 8, 2003
Folder 6: Bowen Portfolio Investment Review
Folder 7: Bowen Educational Plans
Folder 8: Shane Bowen Correspondence 2003
Folder 9: Val Durrington and Jack Denson Correspondence
Folder 10: Bowen Miscellaneous
Folder 11: Prime-Time Saturday: Pre-Retirement Seminar

Series IV: ACU Material
Folder 1: Pamphlets
Folder 2: Royce Money – On This Rock, February 21, 1993

Series V: Religious Materials
Folder 1: 1990 Bible Retreat Notes
Folder 2: Baptism: Position Paper
Folder 4: Church Bulletins
Folder 5: Haddox, Arthur
Folder 6: Kendrick, P.S.
Folder 7: Not the Only Christians
Folder 8: Part Two: Moses – A People Believes God and is Rewarded
Folder 9: Rubel Shelly’s “I Just Want to be a Christian”
Folder 10: Sermons and Notes
Folder 11: Stewardship: Jesus, His Teaching about Money
Folder 12: Various Religious Articles
Folder 13: Walk Thru the Gospels – Highland Church

Series VI: Personal Papers/Correspondence
Folder 1: Articles by Clois Fowler
Folder 2: Juan Monroy Materials
Folder 3: Miscellaneous Pamphlets
Folder 4: Personal Items
Folder 5: UpReach Magazine Articles - 1988

Series VII: Periodicals, Pamphlets, and Booklets (materials removed and processed accordingly)
Periodicals:
Abilene Magazine 1996
Christian Woman
Gospel Advocate
Horizons
Image
Mission Journal
Taylor County Area Directory: Churches of Christ 1968
Up Reach
Wineskins

Pamphlets:
Sincerity Seeking The Way To Heaven by Benjamin Franklin
Workbook on Christian Doctrine: Number One by George W. Dehoff
Workbook on Christian Doctrine: Number Two by George W. Dehoff
The Church by Mrs. W.C. Williamson
Marriage by Mrs. W.C. Williamson (2 copies)
Were Sins Rolled Forward or Forgiven Under the Old Law by Mrs. W.C. Williamson
Broken-off Flowers and Blown-Out Candles by Larry Deason

Books/Booklets:
Meditations: Toward Becoming a More Effective Christian Husband and Father by Randy Becton 1975
Reflection: Personal Thoughts on My Health Experience from 11-73 to 11-74 by Randy Becton
**God's Love in Street Shoes** . . . *Initiating Spiritual Conversations* by Randy Becton  
Master Plan: Exodus/New Jersey

**A Model for Permission-Giving Leadership at the Eastside Church of Christ** Thesis for Doctoral program of Ministry by Jack N. Pape 1997

*UpReach Articles; Listed by Subject and Author* March 1993

**Series VIII: Series VIII: Audio – Records and Cassette Tapes**

Cassettes:
- Funeral of Batsell Barrett Baxter – 4-2-82  
  Speakers: Dan Harless, Harold Hazelip, Willard Collins and Larry Vansteenbergen.  
  Worshiping with Symbols  
  Malcolm Smith, San Antonio, TX

Records:
- “Hidden Hunger” Narrator Robert Holton, Speaker Batsell Barrett Baxter  
- “I Share my Home with Others”  
- The Easter Story read by Bud Collyer

**Series IX: Newspapers and Advertisements [all of which are located in Flat File B7]**

Newspapers:
- “In the Steps of Paul: An All-Church Press Reprint Edition by Dr. Paul G. Wassenrich,” 1964 (2 copies)  
- Herald of Truth International, January/February 1977, Vol. IV, No. 4  
- Christian Chronicle  
  June 1964, Vol. XXI, No. 35  
  February 2, 1968, Vol. XXV, No. 17  
  January 17, 1972, Vol. XXIX, No. 2

Advertisements:
- Herald of Truth advertisements (2) produced by Highland Church of Christ; pictures are of the parents of Clois Fowler