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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.

Conditions Governing Use: 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 9: E.R. Harper letter 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 13: Baxter, Elders, Harper, Highland Notebook; Part 1 of 3
- 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 3: Book of Acts Weekly Outline 1983
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 Vansteenbergh.

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)

“Don H. Morris Day,” The Abilene Reporter News, May 22, 1965

“ACC Inaugurates John C. Stevens,” The Abilene Reporter News, February 21, 1970

“ACC Today Honors Don H. Morris (1902-1974),” ACC Today, May-June, 1974

Herald of Truth International, January/February 1977, Vol. IV, No. 4

“Texas 150: A Sesquicentennial Journal,” The Dallas Morning News, January 19, 1986

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