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Edwin Randall "Randy" Becton Papers, 1970-2012

Edwin Randall "Randy" Becton

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**Edwin Randall “Randy” Becton
Papers, (1970-2012)**

Center for Restoration Studies
Manuscripts #458

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

20 January 2021

About this collection

Title: Edwin Randall “Randy” Becton Papers

Creator: Becton, Edwin Randall “Randy” (1945-2015)

Identifier/Call Number: Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #458

Physical Description: 14 linear feet (16 boxes)

Dates (Inclusive): 1990-2012

Dates (Bulk): 1970-2012

Location: Center for Restoration Studies

Language of Materials: English

Scope and Content Note: This collection consists of articles, notes, speeches, publications, and correspondence related to Highland Church of Christ, Herald of Truth, Abilene Christian University, Pepperdine University, Care Ministry, and Cancer Ministry.

Biographical Note: Biographical information from *ACU Today*:

Becton was born Sept. 17, 1944, in Nashville, Tenn. He grew up in Nashville and attended Lipscomb Academy where he was a basketball standout and pitched on the baseball team, beginning a lifelong love for baseball that included an extensive baseball card collection he shared generously with young players. He married Camilla Greer on Aug. 22, 1966. After graduating from Lipscomb University in 1966 with a bachelor’s degree in Bible, he began graduate studies at the Harding School of Theology but followed his major professor, Dr. George Gurganus, to Abilene Christian University where he earned his master’s degree in missions in 1971.

In 1969, he began a career with Herald of Truth, serving in numerous roles including executive director from 1991 until his retirement in 2006, though he continued to serve as minister-at-large. Under his leadership at Herald of Truth, the international radio and television ministry expanded to include multiple programs. He was instrumental in creation of the annual Saving the American Family Conference; as editor of UpReach magazine and as speaker for Caring Touch Radio; and numerous television specials. He was the author of 15 books.

In 1973, just months after the birth of his and Camilla’s third child, Becton was diagnosed with leucytic lymphoma, beginning a journey of treatment, remissions, surgeries, complications and side-effects spanning more than 40 years, defying his doctors’ predictions. The experience inspired the Bectons in 1978 to begin the Caring Cancer Ministry, an outreach of comfort and encouragement for patients and their families; publishing books and pamphlets for patients, caregivers and ministers; and personally corresponding with hundreds of individuals battling cancer.

For 16 years, Becton served as an elder at Highland Church of Christ, which honored him in 1994 for 25 years of service to many ministries. For the past several years he has been a member of University Church of Christ.”¹

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition: The Becton family

Date of Acquisition: March 2016

Accession Number: R 2017.041

Date of Accession: 7 June 2017

Accessioned by: Diarron Morrison and Mac Ice

Processor and Date of Processing: Diarron Morrison, March-June 2017

Finding Aid Creator and Date: Diarron Morrison and Mac Ice, 7 June 2017

Finding Aid Update: Mac Ice and Amanda Dietz, 19 January 2021

¹ “ACU Remembers: Randy Becton,” *ACU Today* site, Ron Hadfield, 28 July 2016.
<https://acu.today/2016/07/28/acu-remembers-randy-becton/>

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: Materials are arranged into 16 boxes.

Separated Materials: none

Subjects and Keywords

Churches of Christ -- History -- 20th century
Churches of Christ -- Texas -- Abilene
Churches of Christ
Stone-Campbell Movement
Restoration Movement
Highland Church of Christ
Abilene Christian University

Inventory

Box 1

[First folder] Finding aid
Finances (1 of 2)
Finances (2 of 2)
Personal Finances
Health Documents
Randy Becton Letter Stepping Down From Highland Eldership
Highland Church of Christ
Minister Search Data
Highland Church of Christ Budget 1995-1996
Highland Church of Christ Elders Meetings
Highland Church of Christ Members Lists
Highland Church of Christ Member Directories (1 of 2)
Highland Church of Christ Member Directories (2 of 2)
Calendars
Memos
Herald of Truth
Speeches
Workshops (1 of 5)
Workshops (2 of 5)
Workshops (3 of 5)
Workshops (4 of 5)
Workshops (5 of 5)

Box 2

Written By Randy Becton
Friend of God
Evangelism Class
Conversations About Evangelism
Evangelism
Congregational Publications
Contact List (1 of 2)
Caregiving
Minister as Caregiver Note
Caring
Caring Reports
Caring Touch
Care Ministry
Caring Reviews- A Cancer Ministry

Caring Correspondence
Caring Finances (1 of 3)
Caring Finances (2 of 3)
Caring Finances (2 of 3)

Box 3

Cancer
Sharing Your Faith
Missions/ International Correspondence
Week of 4/9/03
Week of 5/15/03
Week of 5/23/03
Week of 5/29/03
Week of 6/20/03
Week of 7/18/ 03
Adoption Agency Report
Articles (1 of 4)
Articles (2 of 4)
Articles (3 of 4)
Articles (4 of 4)
The Nurses Lamp
Magazine Cutouts/ Article (1 of 3)
Magazine Cutouts/ Articles (2 of 3)
Magazine Cutouts/ Articles (3 of 3)
Publications (1 of 3)
Publications (2 of 3)
Publications (3 of 3)

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Correspondence (3 of 13)
Correspondence (4 of 13)
Correspondence (5 of 13)
Correspondence (6 of 13)
Correspondence (7 of 13)
Correspondence (8 of 13)
Correspondence (9 of 13)

Correspondence (10 of 13)

Correspondence (11 of 13)

Correspondence (12 of 13)

Correspondence (13 of 13)

Box 5

Pamphlets

Teaching Material

Harding University

Pepperdine University

Oklahoma Christian University Lectureship

Abilene Christian University

ACU Classes

National Religious Broadcasters

Why?

To His Praise of His Glory

As I Remember It

What are We to Make of Jesus Christ

Discovering Jesus

Why Jesus?

Who is Jesus?

Jesus and Law

Living Jesus

For Those Who Love Them

Why I am United Methodist

The New Testament Church

I Learned to Keep My Own Balance

Sermons and Worship

Overheads

The Church for the Modern Man

Central COC Inner City Work and Youth Work

Conflict in the Church (1 of 3)

Conflict in the Church (2 of 3)

Conflict in the Church (3 of 3)

The Churches of Christ Salute You

RB/Com. HW/AW/ E-mail

International Replies- Coupons

Box 6

A Place to Stand

Tommy Smith/ Pat Langston- Richmond, VA
Gordon and Thelma Mills
Diving Into the Deep Waters
Letter Solicitation List
How to Survive
Nutrition
RB Permanent Records
Living With The Diagnosis of Cancer
ABCs of Natural Church Development
Things that Matter
Personal Notes on Loose Leaf Paper (1 of 2)
Personal Notes on Loose Leaf Paper (2 of 2)
Newspaper (1 of 2)
Newspaper (2 of 2)
Notes from Well Wishers (1 of 2)
Notes from Well Wishers (2 of 2)
Why I am a Member of the Church of Christ
Altamesa COC
Articles and Critical Mail
Personal Notes to Bro. Haddox
Chappell, Nancy- Nashville, TN
DLU Folder
Esther

Box 7

International Communication
What Does Islam Really Stand For?
Caring Records 1990-1991 (1 of 2)
Caring Records 1990-1991 (2 of 2)
Pony Express- David Lipscomb High School 1961-1962
Caring Price List/ Order Form
Family Tree
Article on Caring
Lectureship
Seminars
Stationery & Logos
Appeals- Caring

Box 8

Letters Responding From Christianity Today (1 of 2)

Letters Responding From Christianity Today (2 of 2)
Bluecross (1 of 2)
Bluecross (2 of 2)
What is Caring Ministry
Caring Excerpts
Questionnaire on Printed Material
Article on Becton's Faith
Caring Ministry Catalog
Caring Ministry Questionnaire
Caring/ Share Pieces
How Does A Christian Handle A Cancer Operation?
Caring
Though I Walk Through the Valley
Caring- Sharing Piece #2- God Uses Suffering
Share Piece #8: The Light Through the Window
How to be Secure in Our Parenthood
C.O.P.E
Caring :Visiting the Sick
Intro Letters
Who Cares for our Children? The Status of Child Care in Texas
Cancer Hurts Before it Kills
Grand Parenting in Today's World
Where is God When the Going Gets Tough
Reflections on the Shepherd's Psalm
Hogg Foundation News
Lord, Teach Us
The Gospel for the Person Who Has Everything
What's Right With the Church
Adult Children of Alcoholics
Texas Pulpit Christian Preachers
Growing Up Scared in America
Stories for the Heart
Who is This Jesus
7 Ways God Can Help You be Happier
"Struggling" Column in International
Why Am I Still A Christian
The New Paganism
Evangelistic Preaching that Connects
A Cry of Absence

Tapes (Restoration)

Box 9

What Really Matters

Tapes (Others)

Tapes (RB)

Caring/ Hospice

Alister McGrath

The Biblical Doctrine of Man

His Love Compels Us

Conspiracy of Kindness

The Bible and the Role of Women: A Case Study in Hermeneutics

The Imitation of God in Christ

Cosmopolis

Credibility/ Mass Media Religion

Jesus and Generation X

Articles/ Tapes

RB Summer Course (ACU)

America, It's Not Too Late

William Barclay: A Spiritual Autobiography

Jesus as They Saw Him

If I Were Starting My Family Again

Edwin Friedman

Everyday Evangelism

The Challenge of Postmodernism

Box 10

Our Lord

The Body

Making Sense of Pain and Suffering

Telling Secrets

Tracks of a Fellow Struggler

The Broken Covenant

Accountability

The Practice of Ministry as Caregiver

Things That Matter

Yankee Doodle Went to Church

Lifestyle Evangelism

The Healing Power of a Positive Mind

Message of Psalms

A Hero: Jean Valjean
Healing Journey of Adult Children of Alcoholics
The Search for God: A Christian Perspective
Everyday Evangelism: Making the Most of Life's Everyday Moments
Be Happier Starting Now
Pastoral Care Emergencies
A Christian Manifesto
How to Improve Your Minimum
The Highway of God
The Higher Happiness
A Historical View of Elders
On Being a Real Person
Solzhenitsyn

Box 11

Recovering From the Loss of Life
Finding Contentment
Bridge- 1/9/94
Plain and Simple Step Away From the Rat Race- 2/23/94
The Way We Never Here-1/12/94
When You Feel Like Giving Up- 2/18/94
Carl Sagin- Rules to Live By
Stephen Carter- The Culture of Discipleship
Living Above Life's Loses
Fractured Relationships
When Your Dreams Have Died
When Your Dreams Have Died
Famous Last Words- 3/1/94
Script - Famous Last Words- 5/94
Oskar Schindler "Ripper of Charity"- 3/1/94
Lord, Help My Hurting Family- 1/26/94
God's Blessing- 1/18/94
C.S. Lewis "1) 20th Century Pilgrim 2) Joy Unattainable- 1/23/94
C.S. Lewis "Joy Unattainable"- 6/94
The Future of God- 3/1/94
Death: The Relief From Life Imprisonment- 3/9/94
Facing A Crisis Alone- 4/9/94
New Life is Possible- 3/1/94
New Life is Possible- 6/94
Violence in America- 3/8/94

Violence in America (Folder 2)
When You Decide to Look for Treasure- 1/7/94
Is Hollywood Getting the Message- 1/10/94
The Excellence of Being Average- 11/1/94
Richard Okill- "Love Thy Enemy"- 1/12/94
When the Foundations are Shaken- 2/4/94
Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants- 1/23/94
Pain: The Gift that Nobody Wants- 2/14/94
Life Without Illusions- 2/24/94
The Changing 7- 1/5/94
And Then She Just Disappeared- 1/6/94
Vance Script
Pain & The Community of Faith Pt. 3- 2/28/94
The Beauty of Life: Why A Baby Should Be Born- 5/94
When You Feel Like Giving Up- 4/94
Notes From The Caring Touch Meeting- 2/6/94
The Sandwich Generation- 1/3/94
How Do you talk to A Threatener?- 1/14/94
Katie's Story
Pablo's Story
The Two Little Girls No One Wanted- 1/10/94
The Fugitive in Each of Us
Our Heart's Deepest Longing- 1/3/94
Childhood Abuse- 1/17/94
Finding a Way to Forgive- 3/9/94
Harlem Knight- 4/18/94
The Matter Money
From Victim to Victor- 4/18/94
Healing for Dysfunctional Families
Home Alone- Latch Key Kids
Home Alone: Latch Key Kids
Tribute to All Graduates
Nature's Healing Power
Blessed is the Man That Endures Temptation
Blessed is the Man Who Endureth Temptation
Removing Stones with Self Sacrificing Love
A Life Touched by the Master- 1/3/94
Is Religion Good For You
Invincible People- 1/3/94
Face of the Dark- 3/14/94

The Other Charles Dickens- 4/18/94
A Cry of the Heart
Her Children Rise and Call Hr Blessed- 4/19/94
The Silhouette of My Mother- 3/14/94
Bloom on Love- 1/10/94
Bloom on Love Pt. 1- 1/10/94
When Your Child Rebels- 1/18/94
Kids that Plan Their Own Funerals- 1/21/94
Real Music, Real People
Little Girl on the Prairie
Happiness Radio Script
The Fine Art of Rebounding
The Boy From the Seminary
Triumph in the Midst of Tragedy
Winning Over Despair- 1/4/94
Dads that Make a Difference
The Robert Allen Story
Prayer of Surrender- 3/26/94
Hollywood Love Affair with Psychiatry
Health is Not Forever
Prison: The Story of Rochelle
That Other Best Selling Writer
How Do I When I'm a Success
The Danger of Shortcuts in Life
Suddenly Unemployed
Slowing Down in the Fast Lane
Deadly Words- 1/3/94
The Changing of Harold
A View from the Hospital Bed
Finding A Reason for Hope
Carols Private War
Unconditional Love (Becoming a Child)
Making it Through December
Walking- 1/14/94
Making A Difference
Self-Created Stress- An American Disease- 2/9/94
Modern Day Job- 2/8/94
The Wandering Child
President Clinton's Speech- 1/27/94
Presence: What the Sick and Dying Need- 1/7/94

American Fear- 1/18/94
The Craft of Forgiveness- 1/19/94
In A Wonderful Life- 1/12/94
The Excellence of Being Average- 1/11/94
A Public Man of Faith- 1/8/94
The Question No One Asks
Chiseled in Stone
Whatever Happened to Porches?
Carol's Private War
Coming into the Light
How to be a Long-Term Care
Robert Cole Scripts
Finding A Reason for Hope
The Night the Children Die
Can We be Happy
You Can Help Your Family
A Tribute to the Graduates
That Other Best- Selling Writer (Henri Nouwen)
Reflections on the Tragedy of O.J. Simpson
When the Foundations are Shaken
Marriage: The Last Wish of a Dying Girl
Too Much to Think About
Nothing as Bad as This: The Murder of Tammy Jo Zywicki
Cries in a Hindu Temple
Shame: When It's Healthy, When It's Not
Helping the Grieving Child
And Then She Just Disappeared
Hope Despite Hurt
Just a few Sandwiches and Some Oatmeal Pies
Howard's World: For the Least of These
A Jesus Perspective
Who is Your Hero?
Death in the Mirror
Someone to Talk to.....
Marguerite Mulder: Ordinary Hero
John Weidner-- "I Did My Duty"
J.B. Phillips -- At the End of His Tether (pt. 2)/ Power Through Weakness (pt. 2)
Not in Front of the Children
Why Should We Remember the Holocaust?
Shame: The Hidden Source of Pain

Can I be Forgiven
Nancy Drew-- On Blessing Our Children
Marcus: Where Is His Security?
City of Joy-- The Slum that Changes People's Lives
Love is Stronger, Love is Stronger

Box 12

It's Time of Launder Your Money
A World that Has No Children
Peace-- Not Absence of Turmoil
Never Be a Quitter
Great Expectations
The Hole
Children of Captivity
Her Last Drink of Water
Ripples
Caring "Share Pieces" #1-#16
Family
The Role of the Family in Spiritual Formation
How to Assess and Meet the Needs of Families in the Church
Your Aging Parents (When Love is Not Enough)
Quotes about Grandparents
Models for Evangelism in Family Issues/ The Asian Model and Evangelism Through
Crisis Intervention
Family Stress Literature Suggest
Context/ Why are there So Many Happy Families (Notes)
Blessing
Family Stresses- Opportunities To Minister in the Name of Christ
Evangelising Through Family Ministry/ Can We Move From Repair to Prevention in
Christian Family Life
Encouragement: The Lifeblood of Family Life
Family Unity: Making Memories That Last
The Biblical Basis for Ministering to the Family
Marriage
Can We Move From Repair to Prevention I
Change (1 of 2)
Change (2of 2)
Dealing With Tiny Minorities
Going Home
You Have Cancer: How Will You Deal With It

Lessons About Community and Church
Why Am I a Member of the Church of Christ
Hermeneutics in the Church of Christ
On Passing the Test
Who is Jesus
Church of Christ
Brokenness
Cancer
All Things Work for Good
Suggestions for the Healing Helper
What the Sick Need the Most
Coping With Catastrophes
Talking Time: Support for People with Cancer and the People Who Care About Them
Facing Forward: A Guide for Cancer Survivors
A Caring Community
Life Made New
Discovering Jesus
Bible Correspondence Course: They Followed God
Basic Bible Course
This Man was the Son of God: The Message of the Gospel of Mark
Steps to a Successful Family Inquiry
Search for Truth
World Bible School/ Bible Study Course
Accountability
Training With a Championship Coach
An Open Letter to Becky's Father
Aids Articles
America and Christianity (1 of 2)
America and Christianity (2 of 2)
Alcoholism
Alzheimer's Disease & the Caregiver

Box 13

Evangelism and Discipleship
Seeking God
Reasons We Believe
Can Americans Still Hear the Good News
Give God the Praise
Developing a Christ-Like Spirit
A Time for Healing: Coming to Terms with Divorce

Marriage and Divorce
Divorce
Depression
Robert Coles
Evangelism
BIBM 740- Theology of Evangelism
Evangelism Training
Evangelism Through Family Ministry
Family For Evangelism: ACU Lectureship 1991
Subscription
The Highway of God
Stonewalls Do Not Make a Prison
Why Am I Still a Christian
Religion without Wrappings
On Being a Real Person
Everyday Evangelism
Anchors in Troubled Waters
When Life Tumbles In: Conquering Life's Problems
When Home is a Danger Zone- CTS 374
A Trip to the Prison- CTS 364
Our Fear of Dying- CTS 363
Spiritual Growth Reading List
There's More to Life: Show IQ- CTS 468
When Bad Things Happen to Good People- CTS 467
If Jesus Talked with a Homosexual- CTS 460
Money and Marriage- CTS 469
There is More- CTS 392
The Silence of God Pt.1- CTS 397
The Silence of God Pt. 2- CTS 398

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The New Spirituality- CTS 391
A Plan for Simplicity- CTS 389
Spiritually Single- CTS 410
Spiritual Grandparenting- CTS 406
Whistleblower- CTS 403
Radio Love and My Pain- CTS 445
When Parenting Means Pain- CTS 428
Memories- CTS 426
Overcoming Fatigue- CTS 422

God's Love and My Pain- CTS 445
Herald of Truth Donor Status Report
February
March
Correspondence
Faith Village Church of Christ Member List
Hot Incorporation
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Phone
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Water/ Electric
Advertizing
Gift Letters 00
Preparing for the Holidays Grief Seminar
Caring: Advertising
What is the Caring Ministry
Caring Ministry
God and Me
Caring Misc
Caring Team
Randy Becton
Caring Ads. Publication
Preparing Ads Nov. 1994,92,93
Preparing Nov. 1994 Attendees
Seminar
Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged
2 Col. x4/ 2 Col. x3
Grief Seminar 1997
Caring Report 1997
Caring Reports
Thanksgiving Dinner 1996- Caring
Christian Chronicle
Ink Windgeword Blue
It Hurts to Lose a Special Person
Preparing for the Holidays: Coping with Grief
It Hurts

Box 15

Books

Books Written by Randy Becton

Box 16

CDs

Tapes

Floppy Discs