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Harold Kent Straughn Papers, 1945-2021

Harold Kent Straughn

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**Harold Kent Straughn
Papers, (1945-2021)**

Center for Restoration Studies
Manuscripts #533

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

26 October 2021

About this collection

Title: Harold Kent Straughn Papers

Creator: Harold Kent Straughn, (1939-2021)

Identifier/Call Number: Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #533

Physical Description: 13 linear feet (22 boxes)

Dates (Inclusive): 1945-2021

Dates (Bulk): 1960-2015

Location: Center for Restoration Studies

Language of Materials: English

Scope and Content Note: These papers document the life, work, and ministry of Harold Kent Straughn.

Biographical Note: Biographical note excerpted from the *Kansas City Star* on August 1, 2021:

“Harold Kent Straughn, December 6, 1939 - July 15, 2021

Salt Lake City, Utah - Harold Kent Straughn—minister, chaplain, author, father, friend, and companion—died on July 15, 2021, in his Salt Lake City home at age 81 after a series of illnesses. Harold is survived by his wife Carole, son Jeremy, daughter Joanna, sister Janet Straughn Mills, brother Keith and granddaughter Sophia Gener.

His life mirrored a thirst for knowledge, faith and justice.

"Harold transformed everything he touched," his wife Carole recalls. "Whatever assignment he took on, he first saw the possibilities, then noticed where people were stuck, then helped them use their own resources to get themselves unstuck."

As editor of a church newspaper, head of a publisher's writing department, church pastor or hospice chaplain, Harold embraced positive, respectful, resourceful decision-making. One boss called him "the most creative person I ever met."

Harold was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on December 6, 1939, one of five children of Howard R. Straughn and Edythe Straughn. Harold graduated from Rosedale High School and stayed in touch with his classmates the rest of his life. He was a challenging, yet kindly, presence for over 900 friends and family members on social media.

He earned his B.A. in journalism from Abilene Christian College in 1961. The college, later a university, honored Harold in 2005 with the Gutenberg Award for distinguished professional achievement by an alumnus in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Journalism was productive in other ways. A humor column Harold wrote in the student newspaper at Abilene Christian attracted the attention of freshman Carole Stone. They married the following year.

He earned a master's in Bible from Abilene Christian and a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School in 1966. Harold was interested in the European roots of the Restoration movement. In 1969 he moved with his family to Tübingen, Germany, for three years. He studied the early Reformation free church movement. A few weeks before his death, Harold donated his papers for archiving at the Center for Restoration Studies at Abilene Christian.

After graduation, Harold worked for Sweet Publishing Company of Austin, Texas, as managing editor of the Christian Chronicle. Harold was fired in 1968 for refusing to retract a story about integration of the student body at Southwestern Christian College, a historically Black Church of Christ college in Terrell, Texas. A few days later, on April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated. With Carole's blessing, Harold withdrew their last \$300 for a bus ticket to Atlanta and marched in Dr. King's funeral procession.

Harold continued his transformational work in a series of roles. In Abilene, Texas, he served as a researcher and later writer for radio and television broadcasts of the "Herald of Truth" program. In Waco, Texas, he headed the writing department of Word, Inc., a Christian record and book company. In Long Island, New York, he wrote for a Christian radio program "Heartbeat" and later Sterling Publishing, whose titles include the Guinness Book of World Records. Harold preached at West Islip Church on Long Island from 1985 to 1992, helping the congregation refocus its mission and build a foundation for future decades. In St. Louis, Missouri, Harold worked for the Catholic publishing house Liguori Publications. He served as minister for First Christian Church of Luther, Oklahoma, and helped the church fulfill a dream of building a new fellowship hall.

In 2009, Harold and Carole retired to Salt Lake City, where he served as Minister-on-Call for First Unitarian Church. He assisted in ministering to the St. Francis of Assisi Christian Church at the Timpanogos Facility of Utah State Prison. Harold served as a hospice chaplain from 2012 to 2017.

His published books include:

Through the Bible with Those Who Were There (with Carole Straughn).

The Five Divorces of a Healthy Marriage.

Unknown Texas (anthology with Jonathan Eisen).

LifeSpirals: Exploring Your Ascent Through the Seven Transformations That Propel Humanity's Dreams.

*Anecdotes That Transform: Little Stories That Changed My Life Without My Knowing It.*¹

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Straughn Family

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¹ Published by *Kansas City Star* on 1 August 2021,
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/kansascity/name/harold-straughn-obituary?id=6202712>

Using this collection

Processing Status: Processed

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Arrangement of Materials: The papers are arranged into the following series and subseries:

Series I: Topical files

Subseries A: Personal material and writing

Subseries B: Education and dissertation materials

Subseries C: Consulting work

Subseries D: Alumni materials

Subseries E: Biographical files

Series II: Print materials

Subseries A: Church

Subseries B: 1976 Democratic National Convention

Subseries C: Topical print materials

Subseries D: Newspapers

Separated Materials: none

Inventory

Series I: Topical Files

Subseries A: Personal Materials and Writing

Box 1

Childhood Scrapbook: (1 of 2)
Childhood scrapbook: (2 of 2)
Scrapbook "Kansas City Blues", 1952
Greatest Fund Appeal
Contact and Conflict
Certificates, Diplomas, and Education Ephemera
School Notes and Papers: (1 of 4)
School Notes and Papers: (2 of 4)
School Notes and Papers: (3 of 4)

Box 2

School Notes and Papers: (4 of 4)
School Notebooks
Miscellaneous Education Materials
Harold-Correspondence-1960s
Correspondence
Education Clippings and Print Materials
Photographs
Unknown Texas Permissions

Box 3

[Untitled]
[Publishing Materials]
Pictures of Truth: Parables of Jesus for the 1970's
A Business Plan
The Body of Jesus Found-Movie Script Idea
Cold War in Church
Myth America Proposal
Northwest Passages Proposal
Chicago Proposal
Midwestery/ Prairie Home Reader, Prairie Styles
Great Chicago Reader
Lucidity in the Presence of Ecstasy
Attractions Proposal
Survivalism: The Quest for a Global Theology
Traveller's Guide to Historic Disciple Landmarks
Utopias Anthology
Ozark Continental Anthology
Get Well Book
Religion ↔ Science 10 Toughest Questions
Inerrancy

How to Lead a Fundamentalist to Christ
The Grateful Dead and Other Stories
New Rest. Herm.
People of the Book Journal Proposal
Campbell-Stone Anthology
Politics as Religion & Sport
King Book(s)
MLK Sourcebooks
Beliefs Questionnaire

Box 4

Book Ideas
Thresholds
Children of Divorce Article
Trail Mix
Churches Rated Almanac A Consumer Guide to Religious Choices
Thresholds
Writers Blockbusters
I-E Scale (Blame Others or Self)
K C Star-Truman
Stages of Faith, Hope, and Love Seminars
Luther in my Neighborhood
My Articles
My Books-Contracts
University of Texas Reviews
Brochures
Through the Bible-Post-Publication Reviews
5 Divorces
Carter Inaugural Material: (1 of 3)

Box 5

Carter Inaugural Material: (2 of 3)
Carter Inaugural Material: (3 of 3)
Congregational Questionnaire
Mesta Park
Heritage Hills
Edgemere Park
Gatewood, Crown Apts, Putnam Hits, Other
OKC Real Estate
Property Profile and Market Analysis
Query Letters
Writing

Box 6

Working Manuscript-Ch, 2 Career Burnout
Stress Book Notes from Roy Smith

Stress (Roy Smith)
STRESS
Wisdom Notes
Proverbs Paraphrased
Wisdom Lit Class
Misc. Correspondence
Misc. Notes
Stages of Love Workshop
Spiritual Directors
Workplace Stress

Box 7

Working Stress < Ess Snell Comments
Tentative Layout 30 Chapters
MISC
Notes on current Reading
Chats
Summaries of Chapter Topic Ideas
Bio Sketches
Query/Responses
Sample Chapters
Executive Summary
Market Analysis
Table of Contents
3-Minute Drill
Standing
April KC Trip
Hospice
Church: Sermons, Reflections, Weddings, Funerals
UU Church
Anecdotes Book Notes
His Stubborn Love Educational Materials
Breakdowns & Breakthroughs
Gutenberg Dinner 2006
Dad-Unclaimed

Box 8

CSC Presentation
Harold Kent Straughn Misc.
10/5/2019 Sermon at St. Francis of Assisi Christiain Church

Subseries B: Education and Dissertation Materials

Theology lectures, Dissertations
Introductory and Background; Bibliography
Exegesis and Interpretation
1. Luther and Other Reformers

2. Karlstadt and Other Radicals
 3. Egranus and Other Humanists
 4. Zwickan Prophets and Other Apocalyptic
 5. Tauler and Other Mystics
- Greek Translations

Box 9

Seminar Papers: Staupitz, Muntzer, Kaulstadt, Olivi, Luther
Dissertation (1 of 3)
Dissertation (2 of 3)
Dissertation (3 of 3)
Syracuse University

Box 10

Various Notes Materials
Dissertation Outline

Cassette Tapes

Harold Straughn Dissertation
German-English Dictionary
[Untitled] Tape
Side A, God's Kingdom in God's World, Harold Hazelip; Side B, Our Seeking God, Harold Hazelip
[Untitled] Tape
Harold Straughn Dissertation
Side A, Reeds Among the Wheat, Harold Hazelip; Side B, The Unfinished tower, Harold Hazelip
Western
Relation of church and Missionary, T. Minister
NCC Chorus Raleigh Meeting
Side A, Herald of Truth #226 Pilots; Side B, Herald of Truth #227 Pilots
Dissertation
The Morris Years-1940-1969
Animal Pain
German-English Dictionary
Shall We Gather at the River
[Untitled] Tape
Side A, God Called Him a Fool, Harold Hazelip; Side B, Having a Neighbor or Being One?, Harold Hazelip
Harold Straughn Dissertation
Side A, Not Dressed for the Meeting, Harold Hazelip; Side B, A Cry at Midnight, Harold Hazelip
Jim Fulbright WPVI TV, PHILA, Sava Bills
Harold Straughn Dissertation
Bill Hayes End Advertising Headaches

Subseries C: Consulting

Box 11

THCR 2004 Annual/ Report
Steam Engine Tour-Perry
Timothy Hill Children's Ranch
Timothy Hill Trip Aug 30-Sept. 3
Timothy Hill Children's Ranch
THCR Website
THCR 2001/ Annual Report
Dan Garrett
Annual Report
THCR Ad
THCR
Miscellaneous
News Releases
Contracts
Church-State Book
Wed-Denver

Box 12

THCR Magazines
ACC to ACU
KAVA-Nathalie-Ginnieberg
Travel Records
Spiral Dynamic
IF Anthology
Collection of Life Stories
KAVA Proposal

Box 13

UCO
804 Congress

Subseries D: Alumni Materials

Gutenberg Award
Randy Becton
Theol Disc Group
Dinner Info
Bill Heitholt Kansas State High School Hall of Fame
Heitholt Celebration

Box 14

Rosedale Mailing Labels
1956 BB Champions
Rosedale 40th
Rosedale 50th

St. Louis Proposal
Bob Darden Article/ 50 Worces
Nathalie Vanderpool Lear's Article
Harold

Box 15

ACU Gutenberg Dinner

Subseries E: Biographical Materials

Edythe Straughn
Edythe Straughn
Tan Binder
Tests
Maps
Pictures
Bible School Info Ads
Lesson Assignment
A Study of the Life of Christ
Maps and Lesson Pictures
Bible Lessons and Important People
Family Biographical Information
Writings from Harold Straughn

Series II: Print Materials

Subseries A: Church

Box 16

Church Materials
Church Materials
Church Materials
Let's Get Acquainted
6th Grade Attendance Chart: (1 of 4)
6th Grade Attendance Chart: (2 of 4)
6th Grade Attendance Chart: (3 of 4)
6th Grade Attendance Chart: (4 of 4)
1961-1963 Research Papers

Box 17

1961-1963 Research Papers
Reader's Digest *Who's Who in the Bible* and *ABC's of the Bible*
Bill Vaughan Books
Discovering in Advertising
Harold Straughn Application
2016 Summer Forum
Class on Martin Luther

Subseries B: 1976 Democratic National Convention

Box 18

1976 Democratic National Convention
Carter Campaign
Carter Campaign
Carter Campaign

Box 19

Carter Campaign
Carter Campaign

Subseries C: Topical Print Materials

Life Spirals
Conviction with Civility Workshop
The Stages of Love Seminar
Zachary Naill/ Herald of Truth

Box 20

ACC Print Materials
ACC Print Materials
Zachary Naill/ Herald of Truth
Zachary Naill/ Herald of Truth
World's Fair

Box 21

Sweet Publishing
Word Publishing, Waco, TX
Heartbeat
Religious Book Journal
Historic Presentation
HSU
Biblical Studies Center Austin, TX
Miscellaneous Items

Subseries D: Newspapers**Box 22**

Newspaper Clippings (1 of 9)
Newspaper Clippings (2 of 9)
Newspaper Clippings (3 of 9)
Newspaper Clippings (4 of 9)
Newspaper Clippings (5 of 9)
Newspaper Clippings (6 of 9)
Newspaper Clippings (7 of 9)
Newspaper Clippings (8 of 9)
Newspaper Clippings (9 of 9)
Women's Picture Set
Miscellaneous Photos and Documents

Miscellaneous Notebooks
Lesson Plans Miscellaneous