Mel Rees Papers  
Collection 357

Biography

Melvin “Mel” Rees was born in Portland, Oregon, on September 3, 1906. After graduating from Walla Walla College he served in various capacities in New York, the North Pacific region, and the North American Division. For over 35 years, Rees specialized in biblical stewardship, teaching and speaking on the subject in all 50 states and around the world, as well as authoring 12 books, 4 cassette series, and 3 video series. Rees passed away November 17, 2004, at Battle Ground, Washington.

Scope and Context

Mel Rees was a leading writer and proponent of stewardship education in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination during the second half of the 20th century. The Mel Rees Papers provides a good sample of many of his writings on this topic. His writings were translated into various languages for use around the world.

In this collection are many notebooks of sermon notes largely on stewardship. He also maintained topical files also largely on stewardship topics. A significant series is his collection of Ellen G. White quotations on stewardship. These are arranged by sub-topics within the overall theme of stewardship.

The North American Division Stewardship Department was instrumental in placing this collection in the Center for Adventist Research. [See more under Provenance.] The Stewardship Department requested the collection be digitized and they funded this work. As a result, portions of this collection, as of the middle of 2019, are located on the NAD Stewardship Department’s web page. With their permission, the collection is also available on the Adventist Digital Library.

Part of the digitization work was the creation of indexes of certain of the folders, namely those containing sermon notebooks [see box 4 and 5] and the compilation of Ellen G. White quotations on stewardship [see box 7, 8, and 9]. The index shows the sermon title or the topic title of the compiled quotations. The indexes created are a part of the digital file for each folder, as well as a paper copy in the Papers collection. There is also a master index printed and located in box 1 folder 3a and a digital master index at the same location in the digital collection.

Extent

9 boxes. 3.54 linear feet.
Arrangement

A review of the Table of Contents for the collection shows the series and sub-series for the papers. Note that when received, the sermons and the much of the Ellen White compilations were in 3-ring binders or notebooks. For preservation purposes, the contents were removed from the binders. We retain the designation, “notebook” and “binder” in this register.

Provenance

The North American Division via its Stewardship Department placed this collection on permanent loan at the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research on January 25, 2019. The Division acquired the collection from someone who was an associate of Rees and was the recipient of Rees' papers when he died. The North American Division holds the copyright to Rees' publications.

Use

All users of this collection will complete the “Request to Use Personal Papers Collections,” and observe the regulation specified in the “Researcher’s Code of Conduct” and the “Researcher’s Agreement”. All records in this collection are open and available for research. Suggested citation for this collection:

Box ___, fld ___, Mel Rees Collection (Collection 357), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.
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Melvin Rees Collection
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INVENTORY

I. General/Biographical

Biographical Information
Box 1 Fld 1

Correspondence
Box 1 Fld 2 From various individuals, related to
stewardship, 1981 to 1989 (4 letters)
Box 1 Fld 3 To and from Ben Hester, December 1985 to
January 1986 (3 letters)

Index [prepared at time of digitization]
Box 1 Fld 3a Index of Titles and Topics of Sermons and
Topical Folders

II. Writings

By Rees

Published

Books in English

Box 1 Fld 4 Biblical Principles for Giving and
Living (Ministerial
Association, 1995)
Box 1 Fld 5 Circle in the Sand... and Other
Stories (CHJ Publishing,
1992)
Box 1 Fld 6 God and Man, Inc. (Stewardship
Leadership Lectures, SDA
Theological Seminary,
Andrews University, 1970)
Box 1 Fld 7 God and Man Unlimited (Review
and Herald, 1982)
Box 1 Fld 8 The House of God (1973)
[Photocopy]
Box 1 Fld 9 I Work for God (Color Press,
1974)
Box 1 Fld 10  *Life Principles: Inspired Stewardship References*, Compiled by Mel Reese and Don Crane (1992)

Box 1 Fld 11  *Money and the Christian* (Color Press, 1984)

Books in Other Languages

Box 1 Fld 12  *Allah Dan Manusia Dalam Perseroan Tidak Terbatas* (Indonesia Publishing House, Original: *God and Man Unlimited*)

Box 1 Fld 13  *Ich Arbeite Für Gott* (Euro-Africa Division, 1973)

Box 1 Fld 14  *Io Lavoro per Dio* (Dipartimento Dell’Economato Cristiano Federazione Italiana, 1974)

Box 1 Fld 15  *Je Travaille Pour Dieu* (Departement de L’Economat Division Euroafrique, 1973)

Box 1 Fld 16  *Miasa ho an’ Andriamanitra aho* (Departemantan’ ny Fitantanam pananana Diviziona Euroafrique, 1973) (2 copies)

Box 2 Fld 1  *Tari-Dalana momba ny Fitantanam- Pananana* (Union des Missions Adventistes de L’Ocean Indien, 1991)

Box 2 Fld 2  *Uang Dan Orang Kristen* (Indonesia Publishing House, 1984, Original: *Money and the Christian*)

Box 2 Fld 3  *Principles of Stewardship* (Mandarin)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2 Fld 4</th>
<th>A Blueprint for Christian Stewardship (Reprint of Section Q from the book <em>Stewardship Guidance Program</em>, 1976)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 5</td>
<td>Briefly Speaking, Books 1 to 5 (Printed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 6</td>
<td>Briefly Speaking, Book 1 (Envelope)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 7</td>
<td>Briefly Speaking, Book 2 (Envelope)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 8</td>
<td>Briefly Speaking, Book 3 (Envelope)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 9</td>
<td>Briefly Speaking, Book 4 (Envelope)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 10</td>
<td>A Fund-Raiser’s Approach to the Conference Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 12</td>
<td>If You Think TV is Bad for Kids You Should’ve Grown Up in Linnton (1993)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 13</td>
<td>I Work for God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 14</td>
<td>I Work for God (Original with art) [in envelope]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2 Fld 15</td>
<td>I Work for God (Participant’s Guide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3 Fld 1</td>
<td>I Work for God (Participant’s Guide) [loose paper]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3 Fld 2</td>
<td>Kids Have Problems...Too! (CHJ Publishing, 1992)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3 Fld 3</td>
<td>Lord, your Price is Too High! (Adapted from Mel Rees sermon, Far Eastern Division)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3 Fld 4</td>
<td>A Practical Guide to Church Finance (Color Press, 1983) [Photocopy]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3 Fld 5</td>
<td>Supplement to A Practical Guide to Church Finance (1987)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3 Fld 6</td>
<td>Principles to Live By (TEACH Services, 1993)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 3 Fld 7  Principles to Live By (Color Press, 1982)
Box 3 Fld 8  Questions About Stewardship (Oregon Conference Stewardship Department)
Box 3 Fld 9  Who Needs Religion Anyway?

Pamphlets

Box 3 Fld 10  The Brickmakers (2 copies)
              Commitment/Involvement
              Is it Reasonable?
              Let’s Talk About Offerings (6 copies)
              Nevertheless!
              Ownership
              Poverty in Prosperity
              Religion in the Sand
              The Twins

Meeting Materials

Box 3 Fld 11  Basic Stewardship Manual (Church Ministries, 1990)
Box 3 Fld 12  P.R.E.A.C.H Seminars
Box 3 Fld 13  Stewardship Guidance Program (1967)
Box 3 Fld 14  Images for Presentations (possibly from transparencies)
Box 3 Fld 15  Transparencies (4)
Box 3 Fld 16  Miscellaneous: Partnership Agreements, Church Analysis Forms, etc.

Unpublished

Manuscripts

Box 3 Fld 17  The Acid Test of Christianity
Box 3 Fld 18  The Money Problem
Box 3 Fld 19  About Eggs (A Parable) (2 copies)
Box 3 Fld 20  Stewardship--Yesterday and Tomorrow
Audio-Visual

Box 4 Fld 1  
*Principles to Live By* (American Cassette Ministries)

**Sermons**  [Note: indexing prepared by the Center for Adventist Research and not by Mel Rees]

- Box 4 Fld 2  Notebook 1
- Box 4 Fld 3  Notebook 2
- Box 4 Fld 4  Notebook 3
- Box 4 Fld 5  Notebook 4
- Box 4 Fld 6  Notebook 5
- Box 4 Fld 7  Notebook 6
- Box 4 Fld 8  Notebook 7
- Box 4 Fld 9  Notebook 8
- Box 4 Fld 10 Notebook 9
- Box 5 Fld 1  Notebook 10
- Box 5 Fld 2  Notebook 11
- Box 5 Fld 3  Notebook 12
- Box 5 Fld 4  Notebook 13
- Box 5 Fld 5  Notebook 14
- Box 5 Fld 6  Stewardship Evangelism Sermons
- Box 5 Fld 7  Loose Sermon Notes

**By Others**

- Box 6 Fld 1  Arthur W. Spalding, “Who is the Greatest: Casting Out Beelzebub”
- Box 6 Fld 2  Basic Stewardship Manual Additions [pages in envelope]
- Box 6 Fld 3  Boardman Noland, “The Legal Aspects of the Greatest Deferred Gift and Estate Plan Ever Made”
- Box 6 Fld 4  Henry Lansdell, *The Sacred Tenth*, Vol I. (Chap. 7)
- Box 6 Fld 5  John Harris, *Mammon*, pages 75 to 131
- Box 6 Fld 6  Lewis Sperry Chafer, “Spirit-Directed Giving”
- Box 6 Fld 7  Stewardship Committee (booklet explaining responsibilities of local church stewardship committee; unknown author)
- Box 6 Fld 8  Waldo J. Werning, “What Moves Men as Stewards”
III. **Topical Files and Collected Works by Topic.**
Most of this series originally in binders. Original arrangement retained.

**Book Excerpts on Stewardship**

Box 6 Fld 9  How to be a Leader (A Christopher Handbook)
Newell Dwight Hillis, A Man’s Value to Society
The Human Side (unknown author)
Charles Wagner, The Simple Life
Newsletter of Freed-Hardeman College
Adventures for God (unknown author)

**Fund Raising Programs**

Box 6 Fld 10  Wells Organizations’ Philosophy of Fund-Raising Policy
Lyman L. Pierce, How to Raise Money (excerpt)
Operational Manual for Community Campaigns National (excerpts)
Guidebook of Christian Stewardship Development (Southern Baptist Churches) (excerpts)
Planned Giving: The Men of Cumberford - Fund Raisers
Gary Diocese Development Program, Bishop Noll Institute
John F. Rich Co., Manual (excerpts)
Ways to Abundance (Counselors) (excerpts)

**General Topical Compilation**

Box 6 Fld 11  A Call to Revival and Reformation
Commercialism in Churches
The Cost of our Liberties
Ethics of Promotion
Fund Drive

**Lectures and Programs**

Box 6 Fld 12  Church Finance and Bible Stewardship
Church Surveys
Presentations
Four-Point Program
Quotes from Secular Sources
Briefs and Specials

Box 6 Fld 13 Stewardship Briefs (331 concepts)
Church Fund Raising
Anonymous Commitment Program Mail Out
Procedures

Sermon Ideas

Box 6 Fld 14

Ellen G. White on Stewardship

Selections from Publications

Box 6 Fld 15 Adventist Home, chapters 60 to 65
Box 7 Fld 1 Patriarchs and Prophets, chapters 50 to 52
Box 7 Fld 2 Testimonies and Adventist Home
Box 7 Fld 3 Malachi, the Lord’s Messenger

Compilation of Quotations on Stewardship-related topics

Compiled by Rees [ Note: indexing prepared by the Center for Adventist Research and not by Mel Rees]

Arranged Alphabetically by Topic

Box 7 Fld 4 A to Ec
Box 7 Fld 5 Em to Me
Box 8 Fld 1 Mo to Po
Box 8 Fld 2 Pr to Se
Box 8 Fld 3 Sel to We
Box 8 Fld 4 Tithing

Arranged by Bible Book

Box 8 Fld 5 Exodus to Revelation

Loose Papers

Box 8 Fld 6 Faith, Love, Systematic, Benevolence, Disinterested Benevolence, Sacrificial Giving, Miscellaneous topic
No Apparent Order

Box 8 Fld 7  Binder 1
Box 9 Fld 1  Binder 2
Box 9 Fld 2  Binder 3
Box 9 Fld 3  Binder 4

Compiled by Others

Box 9 Fld 4  B. E. Wagner, “Preparation for the Latter Rain"

IV. Other

Clippings

Box 9 Fld 5  “A True Story” (unknown publication)
“The Devil Chained One Thousand Years,” Good News Series No. 5 (Southern Publishing Association)
W. D. Wampler, “Large Evangelism Offering Received in Alabama-Mississippi” (unknown publication)
Reader to Reader (on the issue of Rook-playing), Review and Herald (October 23, 1975)
“Raccoon hunger shouted, woman, girl fled camp, hid 2 weeks in woods,” The Colombian, Vancouver, Washington (July 4, 1979)
Frederick Brown Harris, “The Best Way to Kill Yourself” (unknown publication)

Sheet Music

Box 9 Fld 6  “As Long as He Loves Me,” by Mel Rees