

**Register of the**  
**Mel Rees Papers**  
**Collection 357**

Center for Adventist Research  
James White Library  
Berrien Springs, Michigan  
Andrews University  
March 2019  
Processed by Francis Gayoba

# **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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Collection 357

### 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	<i>Biblical Principles for Giving and Living</i> (Ministerial Association, 1995)
Box 1 Fld 5	<i>Circle in the Sand... and Other Stories</i> (CHJ Publishing, 1992)
Box 1 Fld 6	<i>God and Man, Inc.</i> (Stewardship Leadership Lectures, SDA Theological Seminary, Andrews University, 1970)
Box 1 Fld 7	<i>God and Man Unlimited</i> (Review and Herald, 1982)
Box 1 Fld 8	<i>The House of God</i> (1973) [Photocopy]
Box 1 Fld 9	<i>I Work for God</i> (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  
Eurafricaine, 1973)*
- Box 1 Fld 16      *Miasa ho an' Andriamanitra aho  
(Departemantan' ny  
Fitantanam pananana  
Diviziona Eurafricaine,  
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)*

Booklets

Box 2 Fld 4	A Blueprint for Christian Stewardship (Reprint of Section Q from the book <i>Stewardship Guidance Program</i> , 1976)
Box 2 Fld 5	Briefly Speaking, Books 1 to 5 (Printed)
Box 2 Fld 6	Briefly Speaking, Book 1 (Envelope)
Box 2 Fld 7	Briefly Speaking, Book 2 (Envelope)
Box 2 Fld 8	Briefly Speaking, Book 3 (Envelope)
Box 2 Fld 9	Briefly Speaking, Book 4 (Envelope)
Box 2 Fld 10	A Fund-Raiser's Approach to the Conference Program
Box 2 Fld 11	God's Plan for Social Security (Pacific Press, 1970)
Box 2 Fld 12	If You Think TV is Bad for Kids You Should've Grown Up in Linnton (1993)
Box 2 Fld 13	I Work for God
Box 2 Fld 14	I Work for God (Original with art) [in envelope]
Box 2 Fld 15	I Work for God (Participant's Guide)
Box 3 Fld 1	I Work for God (Participant's Guide) [loose paper]
Box 3 Fld 2	Kids Have Problems... Too! (CHJ Publishing, 1992)
Box 3 Fld 3	Lord, your Price is Too High! (Adapted from Mel Rees sermon, Far Eastern Division)
Box 3 Fld 4	A Practical Guide to Church Finance (Color Press, 1983) [Photocopy]
Box 3 Fld 5	Supplement to A Practical Guide to Church Finance (1987)
Box 3 Fld 6	Principles to Live By (TEACH Services, 1993)

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|-------------|--|
| 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)<br>Commitment/Involvement<br>Is it Reasonable?<br>Let's Talk About Offerings (6 copies)<br>Nevertheless!<br>Ownership<br>Poverty in Prosperity<br>Religion in the Sand<br>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, <i>The Sacred Tenth</i> , Vol I. (Chap. 7)
Box 6 Fld 5	John Harris, <i>Mammon</i> , 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 Cumerford - Fund  
Raisers  
Gary Diocese Development Program, Bishop Noll  
Institute  
John F. Rich Co., Manual (excerpts)  
Ways to Abundance (Counselors) (excerpts)  
Frederick C. Klein, "The Charity Pros," *The Wall  
Street Journal* (June 28, 1967)

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)  
Rees, "Many Shall say in That Day," *Review and  
Herald* (November 26, 1959)  
W. D. Wampler, "Large Evangelism Offering  
Received in Alabama-Mississippi" (unknown  
publication)  
Erma McReynolds, "Unity, How?" *Review and Herald*  
(April 25, 1974)  
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

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