

Register of the

Louis B. Reynolds Papers

Collection 323

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, Michigan
2024
Processed by Peter Ohura Korave

Louis B. Reynolds Papers (Collection 323)

Biography

Louis Bernard Reynolds was born on February 23, 1917, to Josephine and Albert Reynolds in Greenwood County, South Carolina. When Louis was small his family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio. There, Louis went to school. His teachers took notice of his intellectual abilities and encouraged him to pursue a medical degree. However, he went to Oakwood College and trained to be a minister.

On May 28, 1938, Louis married Ann Bernice Johnson (teacher) whom he had met at Oakwood. Bernice and Louis had two daughters, Dawn (b. 1939) and Joan (b. 1941).

Louis completed his secondary education at Oakwood Junior College (now Oakwood University) in 1934. He went to Oakwood College and graduated as a minister in 1936. In 1945, Louis earned a bachelor of arts degree from Fisk University. Later, he continued his studies earning a master's degree from Howard University in 1968. In 1970, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Union Baptist Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama.

After graduating from Oakwood College in 1936, Louis was hired as an intern minister by the Missouri Conference where he served until 1941. He pastored the church in St. Louis and Sedalia and organized new ones in St. Joseph and Kansas City. Louis also assisted in editing the religion section of the *Kansas City Call*, a popular newspaper. In 1941, Louis was called by the Kansas Conference to be in charge of the conference's "colored district," comprised of churches in Atchison, Independence, Topeka, Wichita, and Kansas City, Kansas. While serving in this capacity, he was ordained to the gospel ministry on August 30, 1941, at the Central Union Black camp meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.

Louis' ministry took on a new dimension starting in 1945 when he became the editor of *Message* magazine. The periodical was the successor to the *Gospel Herald* which was begun in 1898 by James Edson White as part of his initiative to reach the southern Black population with the Adventist message. Louis was the first Black person appointed as an editor, which was one of the landmark changes that came along with inauguration of Black-administered conferences in 1944. Louis served as editor from 1945 to 1959 and again from 1978 to 1980. The magazine prospered under his editorship. He authored and commissioned articles that focused on Black issues, and he often featured outstanding Black political and thought leaders. During this time Reynolds lived in Nashville, Tennessee, and served on the side as the chaplain of Riverside Sanitarium, the first Adventist-run hospital for African-Americans.

In 1959, Louis was called to return to pastoral ministry where he was assigned to the New Rochelle, New York, district in the Northeastern Conference. In 1962, he was called to the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist to serve as an associate director of the Sabbath School Department. In 1968, he was elected as a general field secretary of the General Conference and served in that position until 1970.

In the final phase of Louis' career, he became the inaugural scriptwriter for *Breath of Life*, Adventism's first Black-oriented television program. In 1974, he joined the early production team working with C. D. Brooks, speaker-director, and Walter Arties, producer and coordinator, with music by the *Breath of Life Quartet*. Other leading Adventist musicians such as Wintley Phipps, Ullanda Innocent-Palmer, Eleanor Wright, and T. Marshall Kelly also contributed their talents.

Louis died on September 12, 1983. He left two daughters, Dawn Jones and Joan Cruz; a granddaughter, Alisa Jones; two grandsons, Alvan and Jeffrey Cruz; his foster mother, Bonnie Dobbins Stewart; and many other relatives.

Scope

The Louis B. Reynolds' Papers collection contains personal items, correspondence, writings, photographs and other papers which come under the topical files from the 1940s to 1980s.

Arrangement

During processing, the Center for Adventist Research restructured significant portions of this collection. When received, the order and arrangement was not consistent. The collection is now a combination of several series (categories) and within them the contents are either alphabetical or chronological, whichever best fits the series contents. See the Table of Contents and the following Inventory for more understanding of the arrangement.

Extent

2 Hollinger boxes and 6 special size boxes [1.75 linear feet].

Provenance

Louis B. Reynolds' Papers collection was donated to the Andrews University Center for Adventist Research in the James White Library, on November 17, 2013, by his daughter, Joan Shelto.

Use

All users of this collection will complete the *Application to Use Unpublished Records*, and observe the regulation specified in the *Patron's Agreement* and *Researcher's Code of Conduct*. All records in this collection are open and available for research. Suggested citation for this collection:

Box _ Fld _ Louis B. Reynolds Papers (Collection 323), Center for Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.

Table of Contents

<u>Page</u>	<u>Contents</u>
5	Personal Items
5	Correspondence
	Writings
6	Louis Reynolds
8	Others
8	Photographs
9	Topical Files
11	Items Removed

Louis B. Reynolds Papers (Collection 323)

INVENTORY

I. Personal Items

- Box 1 Fld 1 Certificate of Diploma, Oakwood College, May 1934.
- Box 1 Fld 2 Ordination to Ministry, Aug 1941.
- Box 1 Fld 3 Marriage Celebrant Certificate, Feb 1963 (oversize).
- Box 1 Fld 4 Certificate of Doctor of Laws, the Union Baptist Seminary, May, 1970 (oversize).
- Box 1 Fld 5 Scrapbook of Louis Reynolds with photographs, clippings, Oakwood College, no date.
- Box 1 Fld 6 Certificate of Ann Bernice Reynolds for meeting certification requirements of North American Division of education, no date.
- Box 1 Fld 7 Camp meetings and seminars in which Louis Reynolds was directly involved, dates vary (5 leaflets).
Questions and answers by Louis Reynolds, no date (2 copies).

II. Correspondence

- Box 1 Fld 8 A. G. Daniells to W. C. White, Jan 1907 (about attitude of L. C. Sheafe)
- Box 1 Fld 9 1954, 1973, 1974. W. H. Branson to Union & Local Conference Presidents, Fernon Retzer, and Virginia D. Nyabongo
- Box 1 Fld 10 1975. Charles Zingaro, T. L. Butler, D. S. Poddar, J. L. Tucker, David D. Dennis, J. B. Trim, R. L. Pelton, A. T. Westney, Howard F. Rampton, Earl Spaulding to SDA Indian School, M. S. Nigri to A. J. Johanson, Fernon Retzer to Sabbath School Directors, 1975.

Box 1 Fld 11 1976-1977. Donald L. Bailey to Elois L. Morgan, Lloyd W. Hemphill, Walter Arties, Sep 1977.

Box 1 Fld 12 1981-1982. H. Pinpletan, Corinne Russ, Shirley Bill, Carolyn B. Piesse.

Box 1 Fld 13 No date. Dr. E. Blake (Introduction to Educational Research), Lon Cummings and John Horton to Pastor.

III. Writings

By Louis Reynolds

- Box 1 Fld 14 Adult Sabbath School lesson quarterly, Oct- Dec 1969.
Anna Knight and her Mississippi School: 1874-1872, no date.
Basic Diet Experiment, no date.
Beyond the Call of Duty, 1970.
"The Bible at the Front", no date in *Signs of the Times*.
Christ's gift of Soul Liberty, no date.
"A church of 200 raised up from VBS" in *Journal of Sabbath School Action*, Apr 1977.
Clear Cut Convictions, no date.
The Coming Judgment, no date.
"Detroit in retrospect" in the *North American Informant*, Sep 1966.
E. G. White quotes on Christian character, no date.
- Box 1 Fld 15 "The fascinating story of the role played by black Adventists" in *Adventist Review*, May 1984.
"A form of godliness" in *Review and Herald*, May 1964.
Fundamental of Reformation, Jul 1955.
Future of Europe and Africa, no date.
The Great Invitation, Jul 1955.
The Hope of the World, no date.
History of Malamulo Mission, no date.
"Hospital in Nicaragua" in *Journal of Sabbath School*, Jun 1973.
How Sin Began, no date.
Is the Sabbath a Particular Day?, no date.
"Interpreting the Bible by Emphasis" in *Ministry*, Mar 1969.
Jesus and the Syrophoenician Woman, no date.
Josephine Reynolds Washington: 1889-1975.

- Box 2 Fld 1 "Keep up your Courage", Sep 1955 in *Signs of the Times*.
Magazine clippings with Reynolds as the author, Aug 1965.
Magazine clippings, Nov 1957.
Making a Guest of Christ, no date.
"Making First Things First" in *the Sabbath School Worker*,
1965.
Mission to Black American, no date.
"This Man Bunyan", no date, submitted to *The Youth
Instructor*.
The Momentous Decision, no date.
"The Mystery Finished" in *Review and Herald*, May 1964 (2
copies).
"A new format for the senior Sabbath School quarterly," in
Messenger, Oct 1969 (2 copies in French).
"Our Need for Power", Sep 1955 in *Signs of the Times*.
A Plea for the Things of the Spirit, no date.
The Power of Jesus, no date.
The Power of God's Word, no date.
"The Potter and the Wheel", no date in *Signs of the Times*.
"Prepare Ye the Way of the People" in *Sabbath School
Worker*, Dec 1964.
- Box 2 Fld 2 *Remembering a Riverside of the Past: Homecoming and
Twenty-fifth Anniversary* (Riverside Adventist
Church), Jun 1981.
"Seeing the Invisible", Sep 1955 in *Signs of the Times*.
Separate Conferences: A Road to Fellowship, no date
(transcript).
Shadow and Substance, no date.
"Southern Asia Investment Record" in *Journal of Sabbath
School*, Feb 1976.
Summary of an Interview with Elder George E. Peters, 1964.
"Today and Tomorrow", no date in *Signs of the Times*.
Trouble in Canaan (pages 1-10 missing).
Unequally Yoked Together, no date.
Uncle Bass Rides the Range, no date.
"Vesper Services Aid in Patient Recovery" in *Riverside
Report*, summer 1982.
- Box 2 Fld 3 *We have Tomorrow: The story of American Seventh-day
Adventist with an African Heritage*, no date (oversize).

By Others

Box 2 Fld 4 *Regional Unions*, no date.

Box 2 Fld 5 *Riches with Honor*, no date.

Box 2 Fld 6 William, E. F., *The Plan of Paradise: First Vision Communicated to Adventists*, no date.

IV. Photographs

- Box 2 Fld 7 Boulder sanitarium and hospital school of nursing graduation, 1942.
Pediatric ward: Bellevue Hospital, 1893.
GC Session, J. H. Laurence, G. E. Peters, T. M. Rowe, A. Webb, and F. L. Peterson, 1941.
George Washington Carver (one of the greatest horticultural scientist), 1946.
Walter W. Fordham, president of South Atlantic Conference, 1946.
C. A. Dent, Gwanda Chakuamba, South Central Conference, 1978.
Greeting center of Northeastern Conference of SDA, 1987.
- Box 2 Fld 8 General Conference of SDA, no date (3).
Anna Knight (first Black Missionary to India), no date.
- Box 2 Fld 9 Reynolds and staff of *Message Magazine*, no date. (4).
Personal photographs of Louis Reynolds, no date (5).
- Box 2 Fld 10 Ruins of the 2nd-3rd century synagogue at Capernaum, no date.
Mount of Beatitudes, Israel, no date.
Post cards, no date (2).
- Box 2 Fld 11 Xernona Clayton (American civil rights leader), no date (3).
Louis Reynolds, Mrs. Stafford and Garland Millett, no date.
Eunice Willis with students at Oakwood College, no date.
Mrs. Bettie Evans greeting Karen Cortese and Yvonne Chapman at Breath of Life meetings, no date.
- Box 2 Fld 12 Riverside hospital photographs, no date (5).
- Box 2 Fld 13 Unnamed friends, colleagues and places, no date (69).

V. Topical Files

- Box 2 Fld 14 Linwood Boulevard SDA Temple in Kansas City, 1930s (Louis Reynolds was appointed as a district leader by the Kansas Conference).
- Box 2 Fld 15 Riverside Church officers and Louis Reynolds, pastor, 1945.
- Box 2 Fld 16 Central California Conference reports: 1958-1968, 1968.
- Box 2 Fld 17 Seminars Advertisements conducted by others, no date (8 leaflets).
- Box 2 Fld 18 "General Conference Annual Report", Jul 1 1974 to Jun 30, 1975.
General Conference Bulletin, 1913.
- Box 2 Fld 19 *North American Regional Voice* magazine, vol 2.4, 1980 (A portfolio of black progress).
North American Division, fourth quarter summary report, 1981.
- Box 2 Fld 20 Hale, Frank, president of Oakwood, 2011.
First Annual Alumni Homecoming Schedule, no date (Oakwood College).
Peterson, F. L., *Workers for Africa*, no date (Oakwood Archives).
- Box 2 Fld 21 Stewardship quotes: E. G. White quotes by Louis Reynolds, no date.
Sermon and personal notes by Louis Reynolds, no date.
- Box 2 Fld 22 Things about Ronald Reagan (AlterNet), 2004.
Marion Palfi (1907-1978): Biography, no date.
Newspaper clippings, no date.
- Box 2 Fld 23 Riverside Sanitarium and hospital, no date (2 copies)
Riverside Adventist Hospital (Harambee News), no date.
Bangkok Adventist Hospital, no date.
- Box 2 Fld 24 Scrapbook of Louis Reynolds with correspondence, photographs and clippings of Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, no date (oversize).
- Box 2 Fld 25 Scrapbook of Louis Reynolds with clippings for sermon illustrations (oversize).
- Box 2 Fld 26 Scrapbook of Louis Reynolds with notes, photographs and clippings, no date (oversize).

Box 2 Fld 27 "Pilgrims' Way Marks" in *Sabbath School Quarterly*, 1st Qtr, 1983.
Daily readings in a month (Sabbath School department: GC), no
date.
Vacation Bible school seminar, no date.

Box 2 Fld 28 Southern Union Conference of SDA church guide, no date.

Removed Items

The Messenger, 1923-1946.

Message Magazine, 1936-1983.

Adventist Review and Sabbath Herald, Jul 1971.

Adventist Review, Oct 1982.

Ministry Journal for Clergy, May 1985.

Time magazine, Feb, 1992 (Reynolds' collection).

Reyes Alvin, The Old man was an Angel in *Adventist Review*, 1997.

Obama's Vietnam in *Newsweek*, Sep 2008 (Reynolds' collection).

Bible owned by W R Robinson (Editor of *Message Magazine*)

Last Will and Testament (copy), no date.

"Righteousness by Faith" in *Signs Publishing*, no date.

"Why does God permit suffering?" in *Review and Herald*, no date.

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