

Collection Title: Jess Johnson Papers, 1936-1988, undated

Repository:

The Helsabeck Archives of the Stone-Campbell Movement
Emmanuel Christian Seminary Library at Milligan
1 Walker Drive
Johnson City, TN 37601
Email: archives@milligan.edu
<http://library.milligan.edu/archives/>

Creator:

Johnson, Jess

Title:

Jess Johnson Papers, 1936-1988, undated

Collection No.

HSC0010

Extent:

2.4 cubic feet (3 boxes)

Language:

English
Hebrew

Abstract:

This collection contains sermons, writings, class notes, and correspondence of Jess Johnson. Jess Johnson was a Stone-Campbell Movement minister, student at Butler School of Religion under several notable Stone-Campbell Movement personages, president of Milligan College from 1968 to 1982, and founder of Emmanuel School of Religion.

Biographical Note:

Jess W. Johnson was born on May 19, 1917 in Kansas City, Missouri, but grew up in North Hollywood, California. While Johnson was a teenager, his family moved to Salem, Oregon, where Johnson became a Christian and grew active in a local church, including preaching. Johnson attended Northwest Christian College (now Bushnell University) and continued in ministry, becoming ordained and serving at various churches. After obtaining a degree from Northwest Christian College, Johnson obtained the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Butler School of Religion (now Christian Theological Seminary). While in Indiana at Butler, Johnson continued in the ministry.

Jess Johnson came to First Christian Church in Johnson City, Tennessee, in 1959, where he would serve as minister until 1966. Milligan College (now University) awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1959. After serving as Executive Vice President at Milligan for two years, Johnson succeeded his former Butler School of Religion Professor Dean Walker as President of Milligan. Johnson was president of Milligan from 1968 to 1982. His legacy at Milligan includes the founding of Wonderful Wednesday and the building of the Lacy Fieldhouse and the Science Building. Johnson was also a founder of Emmanuel School of Religion (now Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan). After moving back to Oregon for a few years after his retirement from Milligan, Johnson came back to the Johnson City area and served at Downtown Christian Church from 1991 until his death in 2008.

Arrangement:

The collection was found in the Helsabeck Archives around 2017-2018. The two boxes of papers were marked with the date 1-2-92, so presumably the collection came in in 1992. In 2023, Archivist Katherine Banks processed the collection, including refoldering the entire collection. The collection came in a somewhat recognizable order but was rearranged into clearer series as much as possible. Those series are I. Series: Class Work, 1936-1964, undated; II. Series: Correspondence, 1949-1988, undated; III. Series: Writings and Speeches, 1948-1988, undated; and IV. Series: General Files, 1940-1985, undated. All series are arranged alphabetically with the caveat that a few items are slightly out of order to maintain a chronological order within a subject. Some folders contain a sticky note on the inside of the folder transfer from the original folder that contain some contextual information on the contents of the folder. The author of the notes is unknown, but may be Jess Johnson.

Scope and Content Note:

The papers of Jess Johnson are arranged into four series: Class Work, Correspondence, Writings and Speeches, and General Files.

The Class Work series spans 1936 to 1964 and contains undated material. It contains papers, notes, and material from classes Johnson took at both Northwest Christian College and Butler University School of Religion (now Christian Theological Seminary). Johnson had classes under several notable Stone-Campbell Movement people, including Dean Walker, Toyozo Nakarai, and F. D. Kershner.

The Correspondence series spans 1949 to 1988 and contains undated material. It contains correspondence between Johnson and a variety of people.

The Writings and Speeches series spans 1948 to 1988 and contains undated material. It contains various sermons, speeches, and other writings by Jess Johnson. Of special interest are files on religious broadcasting that contain scripts from Johnson's radio broadcasting work.

The General Files series spans 1940-1985 and contains undated material. It contains files that did not easily fit into other series, including writings by other people.

Administrative Information**Acquisition Information**

Accession 1992-001

Access Restrictions:

Collection is open for research.

This collection does contain grades of Jess Johnson's college work, but because he is deceased, these files were determined to be allowed to be open.

The archivist reserves the right to determine on a case-by-case basis if certain folders within the collection that have been requested for viewing cannot be made available due to various restriction compliance, including but not limited to student information, private personal information, and organizational information of a restricted nature.

Preferred Citation

[Item], Jess Johnson Papers, Collection HSC0010, The Helsabeck Archives of the Stone-Campbell Movement, Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan Library, Johnson City, TN.

Processing Information

Processed by Katherine N. Banks

Completed in 2023.

Folder List

Box 1

I. Series: Class Work, 1936-1964, undated

Acts (Duplicate Set of Notes), undated
Biblical Doctrine, undated
Butler Files, 1948, undated
Christian Ethics (Class Notes – F. D. Kershner), Folder 1, 1948, undated
Christian Ethics (Class Notes – F. D. Kershner), Folder 2, 1949-1964, undated
Church and State – Walker (Class), 1948
Church History, 1948, undated
Church History – Seminar – Literature of Disciples, 1948, undated
Church History – Seminar – Walker – Study of State, Nation, People, Church, Community, etc., 1948
Church History – Walker, 1949
Church History – Literature of Disciples Seminar, 1949
Church History – Literature of Disciples Seminar – Walker, 1949, undated
Church History – Literature of Disciples, undated
Church History – Problems in Anti-Nicene Church – Class Notes – Walker), 1949, undated
Church History – Introduction – Walker – Class Notes, 1949-1950
Church History – Walker, 1950, undated
Church History – Early Christianity – Albert – Class Notes, 1950
Church History – Early Christian Literature – Green of Bethany – Class Notes, 1950
Church History – Seminar – Historical Understanding, 1950, undated
Church History – Class Notes – Chromwell, undated
Church Management – Class Notes – Shelton, 1948, undated
City Church – Class – Norris, 1950-1951, undated
Comparative Religions, undated
Divorce and the Agape Paper, Christian Ethics, undated
Gentile Backgrounds to New Testament, 1951
Greek Orthodox Doctrine and Practice (Paper – Clement of Alexandria), 1950, undated
Hebrew – Class Notes – Nakarai, undated
Hebrew History, 1938, undated
The Holy Spirit, Christ, and Christian, 1954, undated
Homiletics, 1947
Latin Theology – Class Notes – Albert, 1950, undated
Life and Teachings of Jesus – Lord's Prayer, 1947
Literary Study of the Bible – Notes – C. H. Phillips, Text – Moulton, undated
Logic Notebook, undated
Message of the Prophets, 1940, undated
Missions – Notes – Burke 1940, 1936-1942, undated
New Testament Canon (Duplicates), 1950
New Testament Church, 1948, undated
New Testament, Concept of Nature of Church, 1956, undated
Notebook, undated

Box 2

Old Testament Exegesis, undated
Parables – Method of Jesus, undated
Pastoral Counselling – Class Notes, undated
Pastoral Counseling – Psychology of Counseling – Holmes, 1947-1949, undated
Preaching from the Bible – Blackwood, 1950, undated
Protestant Doctrine – Class Notes – Albert, 1950
Psychology and Religion, 1947-1948, undated
Reformation of 19th Century – Walker, 1947-1948, undated
Religious Conditions in the U.S. (1800s), undated
Restoration History – Class Notes – Hoven, undated
Romans, undated
Typology, undated
Youth and Marriage, undated

II. Series: Correspondence, 1949-1988, undated

Butler University, 1951-1956
Christian Ministries Seminar, 1956, undated
Fleming Garden, Call to; SJCC, etc., 1949-1965, undated
General Correspondence, 1953-1982
General Correspondence, 1958-1988, undated
Jess W. Johnson Personal, 1978-1985, undated
Missionary Fellowship, 1982-1983
Sargent, Vi, 1949-1960, undated
School of Ministry/Burns Correspondence – B. C. Unity, Burks and C. Buf, 1964, undated

III. Series: Writings and Speeches, 1948-1988, undated

Beth-Alice Johnson Memorial Service, 1980, undated
Chapter III: The Roman Catholic Concept of the Nature of the Church, undated
Church Building, undated
Cooperation – What Is a Cooperative Church, undated
Disciples and Unity, 1959, undated
Finish the Word of God, undated
Free to Cooperate, 1988
God's Way (Radio Program), 1951
Local Church and Fellowship, 1961, undated
A Model for Missionary education, 1975-1978
Old Sermons (Inactive), 1954-1965, undated
Personal Freedom from Sectarianism in Association, undated
Religious Broadcasting, 1948-1952, undated
Sermons, undated
Sermons – Wichita, 1965-1968, undated
Sermons for Publication, 1959-1982, undated
Speech – Fellowship – World Convention, Churches of Christ Luncheon, NACC, 1977
Speech to Symposium, 1974
Speeches, undated
Speeches – The Christian Liberal Arts College (N.C.C. Forum), 1973, undated
What Constitutes a Church's Structure, 1972, undated

IV. Series: General Files, 1940-1985, undated

Biblical Archaeology, 1945-1954, undated

Christian Ethics, undated

Conception of Church Reflected in N. T. (Paper – Van Buren), 1946

Hermeneutics, undated

Homiletics Class – Dr. Johnson, 1976-1979, undated

Box 3

Lecture on Preaching (S.J.B.C.), undated

Miscellaneous, undated

Mormonism, undated

Poetry, undated

Preacher and His Problems, undated

Realism and Romanticism in Mark Twain – Dorene Erickson – M.A. Thesis, undated

Sargent, Robert P. Thesis, MRE, Copy No. 3, 1957

Schools, 1956

Wedding File, 1940-1959, undated

Weddings, 1943-1947