

Summer 7-2018

COLLECTION 0108: Gospel Music Collection of Kenneth S. Bates, 1953-2005

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COLLECTION 108: Gospel Music Collection of Kenneth S. Bates, 1953-2005

Administrative Information

Title:

Gospel Music Collection of Kenneth S. Bates, 1953-2005

Collection Identifier:

CFT00108

Creators:

Bates, Kenneth S.

Size:

12 boxes

Repository:

David Allan Hubbard Library
Fuller Theological Seminary
135 N Oakland Ave
Pasadena, CA 91182
archives@fuller.edu

Provenance:

Jeff Hoffman

Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:

Scholarly use with parameters of copyright law

Language:

English

Processing:

Adam Gossman

Finding Aid Revisions:

Andrew Wong, July 2018

Biography

Kenneth S. Bates (1925-2005) was a Southern Baptist pastor and radio broadcaster. He was ordained in August 1953 and preached for 15 years at the Andersonville Chapel Missionary Church, then for two years at North Ridge Baptist Church, Dayton, OH. He was a minister at the First Southern Baptist Church (FSBC) in Rushville for 36 years. The Bates Gospel Hour, recorded at FSBC on Sunday evenings and moderated by Rev. Bates, was aired on WKWH twice a week. Previously the program was broadcast by a Greensburg station for a total of 35 years in radio ministry. One listener wrote this to the Editor of the *Rushville Republican*:

“I would like to take this time to express my opinion and feelings about a matter that dates back to 1972. This is the year the Brother Kenneth Bates started the First Southern Baptist Church Gospel radio program on Sunday evenings. At that time the radio station was called WRCR 94.3. Later it became WKWH 94.3. Over all those years Brother Kenneth was able to store thousands of songs at the radio station. Then when Brother Kenneth went home to be with the Lord, Brother Jeff Edwards stepped up and continued the First Southern Baptist Gospel program. These songs were precious memories for some and easy listening for others but mainly a wonderful message for most. Many citizens in Rush County, Shelby County and Fayette County looked forward to listening to this wonderful program every Sunday evening. Some people even tuned in on the Internet. This was something very special because people could be able to hear First Southern Baptist Church Gospel music even in Iraq. . . This was our time to kick back and relax and hear some wonderful songs of Zion.”

This letter was written in November 2007, the year that the radio station ceased broadcasting the program in. While in Rushville Ken Bates was employed by Bussard Oldsmobile until 1963, then Harrold & Pell car dealership in Rushville until 1968. He owned and operated the Bates Body Shop in Rushville.

Scope and Contents

The Gospel Music Collection of Kenneth S. Bates, 1953-2005 consists primarily of audio cassette tapes within the Gospel/Christian tradition, radio program recordings from 1980 to the mid 2000's, a collection of Gospel LP recordings, and a modest number of compact discs. The collection also includes one box of personal documents.

Subjects:

- Gospel music
- Radio broadcasting
- Sacred music
- Southern Baptist Convention

Arrangement

This collection is organized into 12 boxes consisting of 4 series as follows:

- Series I: Personal Materials (Box 1)
- Series II: Audio Cassette Tapes (Boxes 3-9)
 - i. Radio Program
 - 1. 1980's
 - 2. 1990's
 - 3. 2000's
 - ii. Church Related Recordings
 - 1. Church Related Recordings
 - 2. Unmarked Cassettes
 - iii. Gospel Music
- Series III: LP (Boxes 10-11)
 - a. Gospel A-F
 - b. Gospel G-W
- Series IV: CD (Boxes 12)