

2018

COLLECTION 0126: Donald A. McGavran Papers on Microfilm, 1917-1977

Fuller Seminary Archives and Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.fuller.edu/findingaids>

 Part of the [Missions and World Christianity Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Fuller Seminary Archives and Special Collections, "COLLECTION 0126: Donald A. McGavran Papers on Microfilm, 1917-1977" (2018). *List of Archival Collections*. 73.
<https://digitalcommons.fuller.edu/findingaids/73>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Digital Commons @ Fuller. It has been accepted for inclusion in List of Archival Collections by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Fuller. For more information, please contact archives@fuller.edu.

**COLLECTION 126: Donald A. McGavran Papers on Microfilm,
1917-1977**

Administrative Information

Title:

Donald McGavran Papers on Microfilm, 1917-1977

Collection Identifier:

CFT00126

Creators:

McGavran, Donald A. (Donald Anderson) (1897-1990)

Size:

11 rolls of microfilm, 1 bound volume

Repository:

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

Provenance:

Unknown

Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:

Scholarly use with parameters of copyright law

Language:

English

Processing:

Unknown

Finding Aid Revisions:

Andrew Wong, July 2018

Biography

The son of a missionary, Donald McGavran was born in India in 1897 and lived there until he was 13, when the family returned to the US. McGavran graduated from Butler College in Indianapolis in 1922, married Mary Elizabeth Howard the same year and the two were sent by the Disciples of Christ as missionaries to central India in 1923. McGavran was put in charge of the mission schools at all 14 stations. An early article of his on "gathering the harvest" showed his interest in evangelism, an interest piqued by the "mass movements to Christ" in the south of India. His book *Bridges of God*, published in 1955, expands on this interest in the growth of the Church. Anxious to test his ideas on Church growth in other parts of the world, he founded the "Institute of Church Growth" at Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon, offering specialized training for missionaries. The first class was attended by one Methodist missionary to Bolivia, Keith Hamilton, but expanded quickly and in 1965 moved to Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. There McGavran, Dean of the newly founded School of World Mission, pursued his goal of drawing experienced missionaries into his seminars in order to better equip them for the task of evangelism when they returned to the field.

Scope and Content

Donald McGavran was the founder of the Church Growth Institute which he established at Northwest Christian College in 1961. In 1965 he and his Institute moved to Fuller Seminary where he became founding Dean of the School of World Mission. This collection documents his life and ministry up to 1965. The collection consists of eleven rolls of microfilm labeled Introduction, Letters (rolls 1-8), Manuscripts (rolls 8-10) and Minutes and also includes a bound volume entitled "Donald Anderson McGavran: A Register of His Papers in the Northwest Christian College Library, Special Collections Division."

Subjects:

- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Church growth
- India
- Missions

Arrangement

This collection is organized into 11 rolls of microfilm that consists of 3 series, and 1 bound volume.

Series 1: Letters (Roll 1-8)

Series 2: Manuscripts (Roll 8-10)

Series 3: Minutes (Roll 11)

Box Inventory

Roll 1-8: Letters (Series 1)

Roll 8-10: Manuscripts (Series 2)

Roll 11: Minutes (Series 3)

Bound Volume: "Donald Anderson McGavran: A Register of His Papers in the Northwest Christian College Library, Special Collections Division."