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# Rees Odeil and Patti Mattox Bryant Papers, (1957-2007)

Rees Odeil Bryant

Patti Mattox Bryant

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**Rees Odeil and Patti Mattox Bryant  
Papers, (1957-2007)**

Center for Restoration Studies  
Manuscripts #486

Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives  
Brown Library  
Abilene Christian University  
Abilene, TX 79699-9208

2 April 2019

## **About this collection**

**Title:** Rees Odeil and Patti Mattox Bryant Papers

**Creator:** Rees Odeil Bryant (1930- ) and Patti Mattox Bryant (1933- )

**Identifier/Call Number:** Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #486

**Physical Description:** 4 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Dates (Inclusive):** 1957-2007

**Dates (Bulk):** 1957-1984

**Location:** Center for Restoration Studies

**Language of Materials:** English

**Scope and Content Note:** These papers document the Bryant's involvement in missions in Nigeria through correspondence, newsletters, financial documents, and photographs. There are also board minutes and information about the African Christian Hospitals Foundation and other organizations the Bryants either founded or supported throughout Africa.

**Biographical Note:** Rees Odeil Bryant and Patti Mattox Bryant were missionaries in Nigeria from 1958-1967. Their involvement in Nigeria and other ministry continued long after they left the Nigerian mission field.

Rees Odeil Bryant was born to Emmett and Nell Bryant in 1930 in Memphis, Tennessee. Patti Mattox Bryant was born to F. W. and Mildred Mattox on 8 April 1933 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. They both felt a call to world missions at an early age and met at Harding College in Searcy, Arkansas, and were married the day of graduation.

Rees was the first graduate of Mars Hill Bible School in Florence, Alabama and graduated from Harding College with Bachelors and Masters degrees. He earned another Masters degree and a doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary.

After serving congregations in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Alabama the Bryant family arrived in Nigeria in early 1958 along with their two young children, Sara Jo and William. The Bryants quickly identified the need for healthcare and eventually started the Nigerian Christian Hospital near the Bible Training College. The couple had two other children, David and Rebecca, while serving as missionaries. The Bryant's third tour of Nigeria ended in 1967 before the start of the Biafran Civil War. The couple continued to be involved with the Nigerian Christian Hospital Foundation which is now known as the International Health Care Foundation.

Rees taught at Lubbock Christian College, Pepperdine University, and Lincoln Christian College. Patti worked as a teacher and secretary and later in life went on to earn her Masters in Theology and Philosophy.

**Administrative Information**

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Patti Bryant

**Date of Acquisition:** 23 January 2019

**Accession Number:** R2019.007

**Date of Accession:** 28 March 2019

**Accessioned by:** Amanda Dietz

**Processor and Date of Processing:** Amanda Dietz, 2 April 2019

**Finding Aid Creator and Date:** Amanda Dietz and Mac Ice, 2 April 2019

## **Using this collection**

**Processing Status:** Processed

**Conditions Governing Access:** Materials are housed in the Abilene Christian University Special Collections and Archives, Brown Library, Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas and are non-circulating. Access is available during normal business hours; prior appointments are preferred.

**Conditions Governing Use:** Permission to publish, quote or reproduce items from this collection must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

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**Arrangement of Materials:** The materials have been kept in the order they were received and are arranged in three series: I. General Files, II. African Christian Hospitals Foundation, and III. Photographs.

**Separated Materials:** Book, *Divine Choreography*, by Patti Mattox Bryant separated for cataloging

### **Subjects and Keywords**

Churches of Christ -- History -- 20<sup>th</sup> century

Missions -- Churches of Christ

Nigeria

Medical missions

Nigerian Christian Hospital

Nigerian Christian Hospital Foundation

International Health Care Foundation

## **Inventory**

### **Box 1**

[First Folder] Finding Aid

### **Series I: General Files**

1957

Tour 1, 1958

1959

Tour 2, 1960

1962

1963

Tour 3, 1964

“Conquest for Christ,” 1964-1965

Literary productions, 1964, 1967, 1977

1965

1966

1967

1968

Biafra newspaper reports, 1968

Biafra trip (Bryant-Massey), 1968-1969

Biafra trip (photographs), 1969

Biafra trip, 1969

Biafra trip: official papers, letters of introduction, etcetera, 1969

Biafra emergency fund

Contributions to Nigerian Christian Hospital, 1970-1973

Nashville Tennessean, 1970

Datebooks, 1972-1974

Correspondence and newsletters, 1975-1979

1976

1977

1978

### **Box 2**

1979

1980

1981

Teachers of Religious Knowledge, 1981

Financial records, 1981-1984

January-June 1982

July-December 1982

1983

Plateau state teaching, 1983-1984

1984

1987  
1990  
1991  
1992  
1993  
1994  
1995  
1996  
1997  
1998  
1999  
Dr. Gilliland, 2000  
2001  
2007

**Series II: African Christian Hospitals Foundation**

African Christian Hospitals Foundation, binder 1, 1972-1981  
African Christian Hospitals Foundation, binder 2 (1 of 2), 1973-1981  
African Christian Hospitals Foundation, binder 2 (2 of 2), 1973-1981  
African Christian Hospitals Foundation, binder 3 (1 of 2), 1976-1981  
African Christian Hospitals Foundation, binder 3 (2 of 2), 1976-1981

**Series III: Photographs**

Photographs, (1 of 5)  
Photographs, (2 of 5)  
Photographs, (3 of 5)  
Photographs, (4 of 5)  
Photographs, (5 of 5)

**Box 3, oversized materials**

Financial ledgers, 1964-1965  
Post war Nigerian letters, 1970-1978