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Finding aid for Rees Odeil and Patti Mattox Bryant Papers

Patti Mattox Bryant

Rees Odeil 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

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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 -- 20th 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