MSS0539. Odie H. Tolbert collection finding aid

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**Odie H. Tolbert collection finding aid**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title:</strong></th>
<th>Odie H. Tolbert collection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Collection No:</strong></td>
<td>MSS.0539</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Extent:</strong></td>
<td>13 cubic feet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Inclusive Dates:</strong></td>
<td>1957-2021</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Abstract:**

This collection contains documents, newspapers, magazines, books, pamphlets, and a few audio-visual materials regarding the Church of God in Christ community in Memphis, Tennessee and about gospel music and its history. There are also some newspapers and magazines from the Assemblies of God church community.

**Processed by:**


**Access:**

Open to all researchers.

**Language:**

English

**Preferred Citation:**

Odie H. Tolbert collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis

**Publication date:**

2022 October
Biographical Information

Odie H. Tolbert was born on August 21, 1939, in Memphis, Tennessee to Odie H. Tolbert and Rozina Tolbert. He went to church with his family at New Chicago Church of God in Christ and later attended the Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ. Tolbert was a 1957 graduate of Manassas High School in Memphis. He graduated from LeMoyne College with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science in 1962 and a Master of Arts in Library Science from Northern Illinois University in 1969. In 1994, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Trinity Hall College and Seminary. Tolbert was a U.S. Army veteran having served from 1963-1965 and in the U.S. Army Ready Reserve unit until 1969.

Tolbert was the first National Archivist for the Church of God in Christ, the church librarian/archivist for Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, and archivist for the Manassas Alumni Association. In 1969, Tolbert became the first African American catalog librarian at Memphis State University. He was awarded the Allen J. Hammond Distinguished Service Award from the University of Memphis in 2002. In 1970, he married Magnolia Smith Tolbert and had two daughters and one son. He retired after 33 years of service to the University of Memphis in 2002. Odie H. Tolbert passed away on September 22, 2011.

Scope and contents

This collection comprises materials, publications, documents, newspapers, magazines, books, and pamphlets collected by Odie H. Tolbert, librarian, during his years as National Archivist for the Church of God in Christ. The collection is also comprised of programs, pamphlets, flyers, books, and a few audio-visual materials regarding gospel music and its history.

Subject terms

Christian Publications.
Church of God in Christ.
Gospel music.
Gospel singers–United States.
Pentecostal churches–United States.

Inventory

Series 1: C.O.G.I.C. Documents and publications

OS1


Newspaper; *The Mount Resounders Gospel Tidings*, “Woe Be Unto the Pastors by Jymmy Mathis II”, Vol. 2, No. 7, undated and “Have Ye Received the Holy Ghost Since Ye Believed?”, Vol. 2 No. 6, undated.


Article clipping; *The Commercial Appeal*, “J. Drew Sheard seeks to lead COGIC as a ‘unifier’”, 2021 April 20.

Newspaper; unknown publication, “Glory Be To God, The COGIC emerges as the first major pentecostal organization in California after the initial azusa outpouring”, by Elder W.J. Seymour, pgs. 17-32, 1989/1990?


Newspaper; unknown publication, “We Salute Black History”, pgs. 37-48, 1992?

Newspaper; unknown publication, “Modern Revivals, It Takes Time to be Holy” and “The Lord Our Righteousness” by Jymmy Mathis II, pgs. 49-64, 1982 November 11.

**Box 1: Newspapers**
**Unfolded**
Poster; “Tribute to Bishop Charles H. Mason (Founder of The Church of God in Christ)”, undated.

**Box 2:**
**Unfolded**

**Box 3:**
**Unfolded**
Programs; the Annual Holy Convocation of the C.O.G.I.C. held in Memphis, Tennessee, 15 total in a range of dates: 1970-2002.

**Box 4: Programs**
Unfolded

Folder 1
Program; “Women’s International Convention Church of God in Christ”, Detroit, Michigan, 1957 May 7-12.

Box 5:
Unfolded
Laminated flyer; the Greater Community Temple C.O.G.I.C., a Thank you to the teachers.
Programs; the Annual Women’s Convention of the C.O.G.I.C. held in Memphis, Tennessee, 3 total in a range of dates: 1998-1999.
Programs; the Annual International Youth Congress of the C.O.G.I.C. held in various cities, 4 total in a range of dates: 1968-1998.
Programs; the National Auxiliaries Convention of the C.O.G.I.C. held in various cities, 5 total in a range of dates: 1983-1998.
Spiral bound, printed publication; “The History and Life Work of Bishop C.H. Mason, Chief Apostle, and His Co-Laborers”, recompiled by Miss Mary Mason, 1934.
Booklet; “He Made Millions of People Happy” by Reverend James L. Delk, Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Delk, 1944?
Program/Pamphlet; “Open the Door to a New Tomorrow for the Church of God in Christ”, Memphis, Tennessee, undated.
Spiral bound copy; F.B.I. report file on Bishop Mason, undated.
Printed, clear plastic protected copy; “Yes Lord, Historical Account of Charles H. Mason and the Church of God in Christ” by Eugene B. McCoy, undated.
Calendar; C.O.G.I.C. Women Historical Calendar, 2001.

Folder 1: Founder’s Day Programs

Folder 2: Various Programs
“Open the Door to a New Tomorrow for the Church of God in Christ”, Memphis, Tennessee, undated.
Program (cover page only); “The Service of Holy Communion and Episcopal Consecrations of the 80th Annual Holy Convocation Church of God in Christ, Inc.”, Memphis, Tennessee, 1987 November 9.
“A Celebration of Faith in Memory of Bishop James Oglethorpe Patterson, Sr., General Assembly Church of God in Christ, Inc.”, Memphis, Tennessee, 1990 April 3.
“88th International Holy Convocation”, Mason Temple, Memphis, Tennessee, 1995 November 7-14.

Folder 3: Homegoing Programs
Folder 4: Xerox Documents
“Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary, Church of God in Christ lauds founder”, pgs. 54-60, unknown publication, undated.
“The Pride of Life is of the World” by Bishop S.C. Johnson (deceased), pgs. 22-24, undated.
“Sermon by Bishop S.C. Johnson, God’s Purpose”, pgs. 20-26, undated.

Folder 5: Various Documents
Document; Church of God in Christ, Inc., concerning the death of the Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson, undated.
Program covers; copies of Annual Holy Convention covers from the 86th, 88th, and 89th meetings, 1993 November 9-15, 1995 November 7-14, and 1996 November 4-12 (3).
Document; copy of the C.O.G.I.C. organization’s logo, undated.
Documents; two copies of photographs of Rev. C.H. Mason and a copy of the cover of “The History and Life Work of Bishop C.H. Mason, reprinted in 1987 (3).

Folder 6: Pamphlets/Booklets
Pamphlet; “I am Blessed, Evangelist S.E. Mitchell Tells How the Lord Raised Him from the Dead!” by S.E. Mitchell, published in Dallas, Texas, 1966.
Booklet; “Church of God in Christ, Prayer & Bible Band Topics for Weekly Meetings”, Spring Quarter, 2010 March, April, May.
Pamphlet; “Bishop J. Neaul Hayes, Second Assistant Presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ, Inc.”, Dallas, Texas, 1996?
Bookmark laminated; “89th National Holy Convocation”, 1996 November 4-12.
Pamphlet; “The Clarion Call: Fighting To Save The Church As Bishop Mason Left It”, undated.
Booklet; Bishop P.A. Brooks, ministering notes and calendars for 1988-2000, Detroit, Michigan?

Box 6:
Folder 1: printed documents with handwritten note; dated 2009 November 17:
Golden bow ribbon invitation to Odie H. Tolbert’s 70th birthday celebration in 2009.
Program for Odie H. Tolbert’s 70th birthday celebration in 2009.
Brochure for “Those Funny Little People”, undated.
Photo of plaque for Odie H. Tolbert in the front lobby of Mason Temple.
Article from the Tri-State Defender, pg. 17, 2009 August 27 - September 2.
Folder 2:
“The Music Legacy of The Church of God in Christ” by Dr. James Boyer and Professor Odie H. Tolbert, Jr., undated.

Folder 3:

Folder 4:

Folder 5:
“The Man, Charles Harrison Mason (1866-1961)” by Mrs. Elsie W. Mason, 1979?

Folder 6:

Folder 7:
“The Life and Works of Mother Mary Mangum Johnson: Founder of The Church of God in Christ in the state of Michigan” by Mary Mangum Johnson and assisted by Inez Cole Barber, Detroit, Michigan, 1936?

Folder 8:

Folder 9:

Folder 10:

Folder 11:

Folder 12:

Folder 13:

Folder 14:

Folder 15:

Folder 16:

Unfolded
Booklet; “Charles Harrison Mason” presented exclusively by the Evangelist Department, undated.
Oral tape and written transcript; Oral history research project of MSU, Dr. Tucker’s interview with Bishop Bailey, 1972.
Teacher’s Manual; “Power for Living, Senior High Teacher, Church of God in Christ”, 2010 March, April, May.

Series 2: Gospel Music publications and tapes

Box 7: Journals and book
Unfolded
“CMBR Monographs” by The Cleveland Public Library and published by the Center for Black Music Research, Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois. Issues: No. 3 and 4.

Box 8: Magazines
Unfolded
“Praise!”, Detroit, Michigan, 1990 August.

Box 9:
Unfolded

Box 10: Magazines
Unfolded


“Living Blues”, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi, No. 86, 1989 May/June.


“Soul Bag”, French publication, 2000 Autumn.


**Box 11: Books and Magazines**

**Unfolded**


“Woke Me Up This Morning, Black Gospel Singers and the Gospel Life” by Alan Young, University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, Mississippi, 1997.


“Through It All” by Andrae Crouch with Nina Bell, Word Books, Waco, Texas, 1974.


Box 12:
Folder 1: Gospel Programs Miscellany

Folder 2: Gospel Music Miscellany
Xerox copy of photos from the Black History Month Exhibit at the UofM McWherter Library, 1996 February.
Flyer, “Gospel Musical Comedy Sisters Born to Sing” by Chrysti Chandler Robinson, playwright, Shelby State Community College Theatre, Memphis, Tennessee, 2 in total, February 20, 21, 22.
Pamphlet; advertising the CD “Roots of Rhythm” for sale, undated.
Folder 3: Dupree Gospel Music Exhibit
Document; Santa Fe Community College “Free Panel Discussion About Gospel Music”, undated

Folder 4: Smithsonian Programs
Smithsonian Institution events, 34 programs total ranging in dates: 1981-1996.

Box 13: Newspapers
Unfolded

AV Box 1
VHS tapes; “Pentecostal Temple Classic TV Gospel Time”, 13 total in a range of episodes: 17-66, and one of the tapes is non-series, drama plays.
VHS Index; “TV Gospel Time”, Tapes 1-11, undated.

AV