



Dean Jennings Collection, 1977-1981 (Manuscript Collection 15)

Rebok Memorial Library Special Collections
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20901
Prepared by Ashlee Chism, September 2022

Scope and Content

This collection contains correspondence and other documents compiled or created by Dean Jennings (1934-). The collection pertains to the theological debate and administrative issues related to the work of Desmond Ford (1929-2019), especially after the meetings held at Glacier View Ranch in 1980.

Arrangement and Quantity

The collection is 4 linear feet. Upon its arrival, the collection was largely uncontained and was in very little to no order; it is now arranged in four series. The first series, Ford Correspondence, contains letters sent by and to Desmond and Gillian Ford; it is split into five subseries (From Desmond Ford; To Desmond Ford; To Desmond and Gillian Ford; To Gillian Ford; and From Gillian Ford). The second series, Jennings Correspondence, contains letters sent to and from Dean Jennings; it is split into two subseries. The third series, General Correspondence, covers the period of 1968 to 1982 and contains correspondence between parties that are neither the Fords nor Jennings. The fourth series, General Papers, contain documents which supplement the correspondence in the other series.

Each box is generally arranged alphabetically (though general folders in each box are put first in the arrangement and are arranged chronologically). Each folder is arranged chronologically; items with uncertain dates were placed at the beginning of that folder's chronological arrangement. Items that were unsigned, undated, or incomplete (*i.e.*, missing a page) were placed in their own folders which appear at the beginning of each applicable series or subseries.

Custodial History and Immediate Source of Acquisition

The materials were donated to the Rebok Memorial Library in August 2019 by Dean Jennings. The correspondence which was not created by Jennings were sent to him by various people, including Desmond and Gillian Ford. The latter appears to have marked some of the correspondence with clarifying information such as possible dates and surnames for the correspondents before sending the materials to Jennings.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research. The collection is not digitized.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Preferred Citation

For the collection:

MS 15, Dean Jennings Collection. Rebok Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland.

For a specific box in the collection:

D 13 49 A-D, MS 15, Dean Jennings Collection. Rebok Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Biographical Information

Dean Jennings

R. Dean Jennings (1934-) is a physician who lives in the U.S. state of California. He studied at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) from 1953 to 1958 and at the College of Medical Evangelists (now Linda University) from 1958 to 1962. Jennings resided at White Memorial Hospital from 1963 to 1967 and served as an Adventist Church missionary at Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital from 1967 to 1973. He and his wife, Mona, have five children, Debra, Kathleen, Pamela, Reginald, and Randal. At some point in time (possibly the mid-1970s), Dean and Mona became friends with the Fords.

Desmond Ford

Born February 2, 1929, in Queensland, Australia to nominally Anglican parents, Desmond Ford became a Seventh-day Adventist as a teenager. In 1947, he attended Australasian Missionary College (now Avondale University), which he graduated from in 1950. He began ministerial work in northern New South Wales. In 1952, Ford married Gwen Marie Booth (1930-1970), and together they had three children, Elènne, Paul, and Luke.

In 1958, the Ford family traveled to the United States, where Ford earned his master's degree in systematic theology at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and a doctorate at Michigan State University. His dissertation for the latter was titled *A Rhetorical Study of Certain Pauline Addresses* (1960). They returned to Australia in 1961, where Ford taught theology at Avondale College (now Avondale University).

After the death of his wife, Gwen, in 1970, Ford was granted leave to study for his second doctorate under F. F. Bruce (1910-1990) at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. Before taking up his studies, he married a second time, to Gillian Wastell (-); together they traveled to

England. Ford's second dissertation was titled *The Abomination of Desolation in Biblical Eschatology* (1972), as he had specialized in biblical apocalyptic literature and eschatology. The Fords returned to Australia in 1973, where Ford continued to teach theology at Avondale College, where opposition arose over concepts that he was teaching. This opposition resulted in a controversy, which led first to the Palmdale Conference (held April 23-30, 1976) and then to Ford's assignment to teach at Pacific Union College, beginning in the fall of 1977.

On October 27, 1979, Ford presented a lecture to the Angwin chapter of the Association of Adventist Forums, in which he denied biblical support for the doctrine of the investigative judgment. In response to this, Seventh-day Adventist Church leadership created the Sanctuary Review Committee and invited Ford to research and study on the topic. The committee evaluated the manuscript Ford produced during that time, "Daniel 8:14, the Day of Atonement, and the Investigative Judgment". The committee met at Glacier View Ranch in Colorado, from August 10-15, 1980 (this event is often referred to by Seventh-day Adventists as the "Glacier view meeting"). After deliberations, the Sanctuary Review Committee did not accept Ford's document. On 18 September 1980, the Australasian Division (now the South Pacific Division) met and ultimately decided to revoke Ford's credentials.

Ford established an independent ministry called [Good News Unlimited](#) in Auburn, California, which was the home base for himself and Gillian until their retirement and return to Australia in 2000. Desmond Ford died March 11, 2019.

Description Control Element

Description based on DACS. Originally drafted by Ashlee Chism, September 2022. Sources for the biographical information on Jennings include Jennings's missionary appointee file and information supplied by Dr. Jennings himself. Sources for the biographical information on Ford include the article about him on [Wikipedia](#); the [entry](#) for his second PhD at the British Library; articles written after his death from the [Religion News Service](#) and the [Adventist Review](#). Articles from the Review regarding the [meetings](#) at [Glacier View Ranch provided](#) additional details.

Additional information about the meetings of the Sanctuary Review Committee at Glacier View Ranch can be found in Gil Valentine's [article](#) in the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*.

Related Archival Materials

General Conference Archives

RG 11 – Presidential Correspondence and General Files [including vice presidents]

RG 17 – Biblical Research Institute files

RG 18 – Ellen G. White Estate files

RG 21 – Secretariat Correspondence and files

RG 25 – General Conference Committees (Standing and Ad Hoc) files

RG 58 – Ministerial Association files

RG 65 – Ministerial and Stewardship files

NA 48 – North American Division Board of Higher Education
 NA 52 – North American Division Public Affairs and Religious Liberty
 Personal Collection 25 – W. E. Read Collection
 Pamphlets Collection

Container List

Series 1: Ford Correspondence

This series is split into five subseries. As necessary and whenever possible, surnames of correspondents in the folders have been provided for folders not titled for the correspondents; please note that some correspondents did not sign their letters or only signed their letters with their first names. Handwritten names have been transcribed as best as possible.

Subseries 1: From Desmond Ford, 1979-1982

Box	Folder Title	Correspondents
D 13 49 A	From Desmond Ford, 1979-1982	Cassell; Ford; Jackson; Madgwick; Parmenter; Parr; Spangler

Subseries 2: To Desmond Ford

Box	Folder Title	Correspondents
D 13 49 A	Unsigned/Undated	
D 13 49 A	General, 1977	Balharrie; Bruce; Cassell; Ort; Voss
D 13 49 A	General, 1978	Damte; Hyde; Knight; Knopper; McBride; McHarg; Messinger; Olsen; Sherrill; Winn
D 13 49 A	General, 1979	Benson; Brooks; Cherry; Dunton; Durst; Fillman; Harding; Jensen; Joiner; Jones; Karppi; Kozlicki; Leng; McHarg; Miller; Monier; Owema; Palmer; Pohjola; Pringle; Sorenson; Staples; Walker; Webster; Willey; Winger; Zeisner
D 13 49 A	General, 1980 - 1	Allen; Barritt; Benson; Buchanan; Buxton; Chan; Cochran; Coon; Couperus; Duffin; Durst; Eickmann; Fisel; Flory; Foster; Friesen; Hackwell; Hance; Haven; Hays; Johanson; Kalinowski; Lehman; Loftus; Lohne; Londis; Lowe; Mazzaferri; McHarg; McMullin; Merling; Miller; Moore; Moynes; Ochs; Orrick; Ort; Ott; Palmer; Parfitt; Parmenter; Prescott; Pulliam; Reith;
D 13 49 A	General, 1980 - 2	

		Ruttimann; Sherriff; Stevenson; Thompson; Toustad; Tower; Utt; Wakefield; Zeisner
D 13 49 A	Baker	
D 13 49 A	Bradford	
D 13 49 A	John Brinsmead	
D 13 49 A	Byrne	
D 13 49 A	John Carter	
D 13 49 A	Coffen	
D 13 49 A	Ray Cottrell	
D 13 49 A	Delafield	
D 13 49 A	Robert Greive	
D 13 49 A	Hammill	
D 13 49 A	Heise	
D 13 49 A	Heppenstall	
D 13 49 A	Warren H. Johns	
D 13 49 A	Leshner	
D 13 49 A	Magnusson	
D 13 49 A	Noel Mason	
D 13 49 A	Arthur Patrick	
D 13 49 A	Robert H. Parr	
D 13 49 B	Pfandl	
D 13 49 B	W. E. Read	
D 13 49 B	Strand	
D 13 49 B	Veltman	
D 13 49 B	Ritchie Way	
D 13 49 B	Whidden	
D 13 49 B	Neal C. Wilson	
D 13 49 B	Norman Young	

Subseries 3: To Desmond and Gillian Ford

Please note that the contents of the 1980 folder include telegrams from various people.

Box	Folder Title	Correspondents
D 13 49 B	To Desmond and Gillian Ford, undated	Driscoll; Loftus; Mallory; Speyer; Young
D 13 49 B	To Desmond and Gillian Ford, 1977-1978	Mason; Naden; Parr; Porter; Spangler; Waterworth; Young
D 13 49 B	To Desmond and Gillian Ford, 1979	Barrett; Boag; Bruce; Byrne; Coffen; Crandall; Dane; Dillon; Edwards; Eva; Godfrey; Goldt; Hatton; Heppenstall; Hokin; Loftus; Mallory;

		Mason; Masters; Parker; Paulson; Polglase; Porter; Potgieter; Pringle; Thomson; Vine; Waterworth; Young
D 13 49 B	To Desmond and Gillian Ford, 1980	Barrett; Box; Brinsmead; Brooks; Bruce; Cheek; Christian; Clapham; Dillon; Edwards; Ellison; Fischer; Geraty; Giller; Hatton; Heise; Herbey; Jenner; Jennings; Lloyd; Mason; Moorhead; Parmenter; Parr; Patrick; Paulson; Rodgers; Staples; Stork; Thomson; Valentine; Wallace

Subseries 4: To Gillian Ford

Box	Folder Title	Correspondents
D 13 49 B	To Gillian Ford, 1978-1980	Bathgate; Coffen; Damte; Ford; Hatton; Heppenstall; Johnston; Parker; Parr; Ruskjer; Sheffield; Waght; Wastell; Young

Subseries 5: From Gillian Ford

Please note that the folder includes letters which were written by Gillian Ford but were not sent to the intended recipient.

Box	Folder Title	Correspondents
D 13 49 B	From Gillian Ford, 1978-1980	Ford; Hammill; Venden; Wilson

Series 2: Jennings Correspondence

This series has been split into two subseries. Surnames of correspondents have been noted where possible.

Subseries 1: From Dean Jennings

Please note that the first folder does not contain correspondence but is comprised of tags for correspondence that Jennings sent, which is why it is in this subseries.

Box	Folder Title	Correspondents
D 13 49 B	From Dean Jennings, undated	
D 13 49 B	From Dean Jennings, 1979	Cottrell; Kubo; Spangler; Wilson
D 13 49 B	From Dean Jennings, 2019	David Trim

Subseries 2: To Dean Jennings

Box	Folder Title	Correspondents
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D 13 49 B	To Dean Jennings, undated	Grom; Knechtle; Waterworth
D 13 49 B	To Dean Jennings, 1977-1979	Amundson; Cochran; Eva; Geraty; Heisler; Heppenstall; Holt; Johnston; Marais; Parr; Pierson; Spangler; Staples
D 13 49 B	To Dean Jennings, 1980-1982	Bedford; Bradford; Broad; Campbell; Crandall; Damte; Denne; Dillon; Edwards; Ford; Grant; Gray; Hammond; Hatton; Heppenstall; Knechtle; Nakarai; Parr; Polglase; Porse; Pringle; Way; Yialdis; Young

Series 3: General Correspondence, 1968-1982

Box	Folder Title	Correspondents
D 13 49 C	Incomplete/Unsigned/Undated	
D 13 49 C	General, 1978	Duffy; Jorgensen; Parr
D 13 49 C	General, 1979	Barrett; Friesen; Gonzalez; Hatton; Herbey; Joseit; Larsen; Lin; Martin; Yergh
D 13 49 C	General, 1980	Badke; Bass; Butler; Grant; Hammill; Jarnes; Krimp; Lewis; Mallory; Miller; Mitchell; Thompson; J. B. Trim; Valentine
D 13 49 C	General, 1981	Amundson; Delafield; Lay
D 13 49 C	Aldred, 1979	
D 13 49 C	Amundson and Ted Wilson, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Cassell, 1977-1980	
D 13 49 C	Clifford to Tarling, 1977	
D 13 49 C	Coon to and from Marshall and Meeker, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Cox to Hammill, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Cummings, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Douglass to Merrill, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Durand, 1978, 1980, 1981	
D 13 49 C	Durst, 1979, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Eva and Walker, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Gane, 1979, 1982	
D 13 49 C	Geraty to Wood, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Graybill and Rea, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Group Letters, Various Authors, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Heise to Wood, 1977	
D 13 49 C	Heppenstall, 1979, 1980	

D 13 49 C	Johnsson to Hamill, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Kubo, 1969, 1979	
D 13 49 C	Merrill to Wood, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Norwich to Health and Education Research, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Parmenter, 1979, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Parr to Eva, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Pfandl to Karppi, 1979	
D 13 49 C	Pierson, 1977-1978	
D 13 49 C	Staples to Parr, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Syme to White, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Veltman, 1979, 1980	
D 13 49 C	Neal C. Wilson, 1968, 1978, 1979, 1980	

Series 4: General Papers

Box	Folder Title
D 13 49 D	Brown, The Bible and Mrs White Are in Agreement
D 13 49 D	Consultation Materials
D 13 49 D	Ellen G. White clippings
D 13 49 D	Ford writings
D 13 49 D	Foulston, Some Observations
D 13 49 D	Graybill, E. G. White's Literary Work: An Update
D 13 49 D	Guy, Future of Adventist Theology
D 13 49 D	Haloviak, EGW and Doctrinal Controversy
D 13 49 D	Hammill Comments
D 13 49 D	Johns, ABCs of Dr Desmond Ford's Theology
D 13 49 D	Kraa, A Comparison
D 13 49 D	Leach, Leadership Talk
D 13 49 D	Leshner Comments
D 13 49 D	Paxton, Radio Speech
D 13 49 D	Periodical clippings, 1977-1981
D 13 49 D	Spangler Comments
D 13 49 D	Syme, God's Last Message and the Final Crisis
D 13 49 D	Transcript, Tarling interview of Greive, 1977
D 13 49 D	West Coast Bible Teachers' Recommendation to PREXAD
D 13 49 D	Unsigned comments and clippings
D 13 49 D	W. C. White, 1903, 1915