

W.P. Crouch Sermons 1904-11, 1921, 1923 & 1924

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INTRODUCTION

Title: W.P. Crouch Sermons
Collection Number: 38
Physical Description: 1 box
Creator: unknown

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance: No acquisition records can be found for the Crouch Sermons. However, previous box lists show that the materials have been here since at least the mid-1990s. These materials were previously kept together in a box as part of the Artifacts Collection. They have been removed because they are not artifacts; the format and nature of the materials qualifies them as an independent collection.

Notations on one of the sermons suggest that Crouch's children had access to and perhaps sorted the materials before they came to the archives. (The notations simply say "papa's" and "not papa's." They can be found on the sermon titled "Christ's Church – NT.")

Access: This collection is open for research. Care should be taken with sermon originals as some are fragile. Though originals are available for viewing, photocopies should be made from access copies in each folder.

Processing Information: Ginger Dillon finished processing the collection in October of 2007. This included breaking the collection into Series, writing the finding aid, making phase boxes for the two notebooks, and repairing the sermon "A Man Who Wanted to Know" with myrtle paper.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Peyton Crouch was born to Henry H. and Nancy Dickson Crouch in Johnson City, TN, on March 1, 1872. Crouch attended Johnson City schools for his primary education. He and Frankie T. Alexander of St. Charles, MO, married on April 6, 1893. Frankie Crouch was born September 12, 1871. She and William had five children: Joseph, Lloyd, William Jr., Owen, and Lois. All of the Crouch children attended Milligan College, and Owen served as part of the Bible faculty.

Crouch attended Fayetteville Collegiate Institute for an unknown number of years and was strongly influenced by Professor James A. Tate. Following this, Crouch graduated from Milligan College with an A.M. (*atrium magister* or Master of Arts) degree in 1905.

While Crouch lived in Johnson City he preached at local churches and taught in the public schools. He was principal of Columbus Powell School for six years. Crouch's pulpit ministry career began in 1901 and he quickly became known for encouraging growth in new congregations. He served congregations in Pulaski, Collierville, Clarksville, Shelbyville and Bristol, Tennessee. He also served at Athens, AL, Carlisle, KY, and Clifton Church of Louisville, KY. His final church was East End Christian Church in Memphis, TN, which he had served for about two years upon his death on June 19, 1925. His wife Frankie passed away in Wichita Falls, TX, on September 10, 1943. William and Frankie are both buried in the Crouch plot in the Monta Vista Cemetery, Johnson City, TN.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The W.P. Crouch Sermons collection contains sermons, two pieces of correspondence, and two notebooks used by Crouch to record information about the congregations he ministered to. Most of the sermons in this collection are not dated, however the notepad contains dates from 1904 through 1911 and the published messages "A World Without Christ" and "The Greatest Problem of the 20th Century" are from 1923. The two pieces of correspondence are dated 1921 and 1924.

The collection has been broken up into three Series: Series I contains the sermons, Series II the two notebooks, and Series III the correspondence.

For additional information on William Peyton Crouch, see his name file in the Milligan College Archives and the William Peyton Crouch Collection at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society (Nashville, TN). The *Christian Standard* and *Tennessee Christian* periodicals will also have pieces by and about W.P. Crouch.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I, Sermons, 1923 and undated

There are 11 sermons in Series I. All but two are hand-written, and all have access copies included in the folder. The titles of the sermons are:

A Man Who Wanted to Know
A World Without Christ
Blowing Soap Bubbles
Campbells and Their Purpose, The
Christ's Church – NT
Excuses
Greatest Problem of the 20th Century, The

Knowing God
Prayer
Seen and Unseen
Two Sons, The

Series II, Notebooks, 1904 – 1911

These two red leather-bound notebooks were used to record the titles and dates of messages delivered, as well as to which congregation. The notebooks also record weddings, funerals, salary received from congregations, and short membership rolls. There are a handful of diary-like entries in the flip-top notepad. Entries appear to be grouped by congregation and are thus in a rough chronological order. Several blank pages may separate information on one congregation from that of another. The notebooks are in good condition, though the binding of the flip-top notebook is coming loose.

Series III, Correspondence, 1921 and 1924

Two letters are contained in Series III. The first is a typewritten form letter asking congregation members for their support and enthusiastic participation in an upcoming revival. The second is a typewritten letter to one Brother Cowden, author of a book or pamphlet entitled “Christian Unity and Open and Close Membership.” This letter is in response to points raised in Cowden’s publication.