11/28/2012

**Summary Information**

**Creator**
Foreign Missionary Band, 1900-1909
Student Volunteer Band, 1909-1960

**Extent (quantity/size)**
3 boxes.

**Language**
English

**Abstract**
BU Records: Student Volunteer Band consists of organizational records, missionary correspondence, and a history of the origin of the band.

**Subjects**
Baylor University -- History. / Missionaries / Missions -- History. / Missions, American.

**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access and Use**
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**Preferred Citation**
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:
BU Records: Student Volunteer Band, Accession #BU/164, Box#, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

**Processing Information**
Described by Terra Lemeron and released on 2012-11-26.

**Scope and Content**
BU Records: Student Volunteer Band was acquired by transfer in two transactions, the first from uncatalogued materials in The Texas Collection, and the second from Moody/Memorial Library.

This collection begins 1900 December 6 when the group gained its first official members. The collection ends in 1957. There are no major gaps in collection materials, tracing the history of the band.

**Administrative/Biographical History**
The Foreign Missionary Band was one of the oldest continuously operating student organizations at Baylor University. Officially organized during a revival in 1899 December, the group did not have active members until 1900 December 6. The band was organized by John S. Tanner, J.M. Dawson, R.J. Willingham, W.B. Glass, Josie Still, B.L. Lockett, Harry Murhead, and F.M. Edwards. The group originated to inspire students to missionary action and involvement by educating them about world missionary movements.

There are many discrepancies in the naming of the organization. Names include “Foreign Missionary Band,” “Mission Band,” “Student Volunteer Band,” and other variations. The “Worker Band” was a separate organization, although similar in nature to the Student Volunteer Band. The organization was a “band” in the sense of a unit of people working together and was not an instrumental group.

The Band held weekly meetings to discuss issues related to missionary tasks, economic issues, and spiritual crises that were happening in other countries. The organization brought missionaries from all over the world including Africa, India, China, and Brazil to speak at meetings and Chapel. They also organized and appointed many missionaries to share the gospel with others around the world.

By 1945 the band had supported the work of 150 missionaries who had been members of the organization. In 1900 the band started with only 12 members, but by 1950 they had grown to 106 members, with total number of members past and present at almost 1,750. In 1937, the band was credited with helping Baylor send more missionaries to the field than any other institution. In 1960, the organization’s name was changed to the World Mission Fellowship, with Dr. James E. Wood serving as a co-sponsor.

**Related Resources**

**Related citations**


**Archival Arrangement**
The Student Volunteer Band was not organized prior to this finding aid and had no complete inventory of the collection. This collection had no prior finding aid.

Currently the Student Volunteer Band Records are arranged in two series: I. Operational Records, II. Correspondence.
Series 1: Operational Records. 1900-1957

Administrative/Biographical History
This series contains a history of the organization, minutes, the organization's constitution, and donation records. The 1927-1955 Record Books are located out of chronological sequence in a separate box at the end of the collection due to their large dimensions. The series is in good condition.

Item List
Box 1. Folder 1. Membership Records, Brief History, 1900-1950
Box 1. Folder 2. Record Book, 1900-1906
Box 1. Folder 3. Record Book, 1904-1905
Box 2. Folder 1. Record Book, 1906-1918
Box 2. Folder 2. Records of Extension Committee of Summer Term, 1921-1925
Box 2. Folder 4. The Volunteer Missionary Band Minutes, 1953
Box 2. Folder 5. The Volunteer Band Newsletter, Constitution of the Volunteer Band, 1954-1955
Box 2. Folder 6. Record Book, 1956-1957
Box 3. Folder 1. Record Book, 1927-1945
Box 3. Folder 2. Record Book, 1945-1955

Series 2: Correspondence. 1946-1949

Administrative/Biographical History
This series contains letters and newsletters from missionaries to the Student Volunteer Band. This series is in good condition.

Item List
Box 2. Folder 7. Missionary Correspondence to Volunteer Band, 1946-1949