

Collection #
SC2847

**JOSEPH T. TAYLOR
ESSAY (WORLD METHODIST CONFERENCE), 1986**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 folder, 2 artifacts
COLLECTION DATES:	1986
PROVENANCE:	Hertha Taylor, November, 2007

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: M0350; M0825

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2007.0349

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The World Methodist Conference, an event held every five years, seeks to disseminate information and consider common interests. It is sponsored by the World Methodist Council, an association of numerous Methodist denominations that was organized in 1881. It is comprised of over 75 member organizations representing 132 countries.

Joseph Thomas Taylor served on the World Methodist Council. He attended the council meetings in Honolulu in 1981 and in Nairobi, Kenya in 1986.

The son of Joseph T. Taylor and Willie Ann Price, Joseph Thomas Taylor (February 11, 1913–September 23, 2000) was born in Rolling Fork, Mississippi. Joseph married Hertha Mae Ward on February 16, 1944. The Taylors had three children: Bruce (known professionally as Meshach Taylor), Judith, and Joel Taylor (also known as Hussain).

Taylor, along with his wife and children eventually settled in Indianapolis. He had a storied career. He attended several institutions of higher learning. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana where he received a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in 1936 and a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in 1937. Taylor continued graduate studies at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and completed a Ph.D in Sociology at Indiana University in 1952.

As a sociologist, Taylor did extensive field work. He produced many academic papers and articles. During his early career, he was one of the workers in Gunnar Myrdal's landmark study, *An American Dilemma*.

Joseph Taylor taught at several colleges and universities including Florida A & M College, Albany State College in Georgia, Dillard University, Indiana University, and Indiana University, Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI)]. He taught and served in administrative positions at IUPUI from 1962–1983, the year of his retirement. Beyond his official retirement, he continued to go to the university and write.

A World War II veteran and an ample speaker, Taylor was civically engaged and his leadership was regularly sought. He was active in the Indianapolis community, serving on numerous boards and committees. He was a recipient of several service awards and four honorary degrees. IUPUI has honored Taylor by attaching his name to an annual symposium and a scholarship. In May 2008, an original IUPUI building housing the University College and the Multicultural Center was renamed Joseph T. Taylor Hall.

Sources:
collection.

Materials in the
“IUPUI, Joseph T. Taylor Hall Dedication

Ceremony, May 19, 2008” program booklet.
1966).

Indiana Alumni Magazine. Volume 28, No. 9, (June-July
In-person interview with Hertha Taylor by Wilma Moore, November 08, 2007

Website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Methodist_Council
umc.org/news/themes/19thworldmethconf/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Methodist_Council_umc.org/news/themes/19thworldmethconf/)

Website: <http://new.gbgm->

(Both websites accessed on May 20, 2008)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

As members of the Broadway United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Joseph T. Taylor and his wife, Hertha, attended the World Methodist Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya from July 23–July 29, 1986. During 1986, the conference was attended by 3500 people representing churches in more than 70 countries.

On August 17, 1986, Taylor penned his reflections about his trip to Nairobi and the conference in a five-page essay. He indicated that the 500-member World Methodist Council reports information and promotes unity through its conference held every five years. The chairperson of the Council, Bishop William Cannon of the United Methodist Church, performed the opening sermon. Communion was served to the whole group. The theme of the conference was: “Christ Jesus: God’s ‘Yes’ for the World.” Daniel Toroitich arap Moi, president of Kenya, greeted the group. The host, Lawi Imathiu, a Kenyan bishop gave the installation address. The conference included a surplus of speakers including Cecil Bishop, Charles Colson, Leontine Kelly, and Desmond Tutu. Taylor attributed the following quote to Bishop Tutu: “Whites came to Africa with the Bible and the Africans had land; now Africans have the Bible and whites have the land.”

Taylor ponders over the state of world affairs. He contrasted the poverty-stricken conditions in Kenya to the wealth in the country and speaks on the contradictions of the church power brokers speaking negatively about Third World people and women capturing positions of prominence within the church conference. He speaks of maintaining hope in the mist of the world’s ills—hunger, disease, injustice, war, and destruction.

While in Kenya, the Taylors spent time with other African American Methodists—Sam Jones (Indianapolis Urban League) and his wife; Bishop J. C. Hoggard of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) Church; Reverend Henry Williamson, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME); and retired Bishop Prince Taylor, United Methodist (UM) Church.

Taylor’s essay also shares recollections of his family’s lengthy membership at Broadway United Methodist Church. He reflects on several stories of Methodists throughout the world and their struggles including: Adam Kuezma in Russia and Poland; Noreen Towers in Australia; and Lawi Imathiu in Kenya. Toward the end of his composition, Taylor quotes Martin Luther King, Jr. and Alfred Tennyson. He ends the paper with Winston Churchill quoting Arthur High Cough: “.... And not by eastern windows only, when

Daylight comes, comes in the light.

In front, the sun shines slow, how slowly,

But westward look—the land is bright!”

In addition to the essay, the collection also includes two medals with ribbons from both the 1981 conference in Honolulu and the 1986 conference in Nairobi, both attended by the Taylors.

Contents

Contents: World Methodist Church Conference

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Five-page essay pertaining to Taylor's attendance at the World Methodist Conference, 1986

Folder 1

World Methodist Conference Ribbon Badge with medal and nameplate (Joseph T. Taylor), Honolulu, Hawaii, 1981

ART: 2007.0349

World Methodist Conference Ribbon Badge with medal, Nairobi, Kenya, 1986

ART: 2007.0349

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC2847).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.