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W00-1255. Maassen, John H. (1920-2009).
Papers, 1942-1999, 2009. 1.50 linear ft.



Abstract

Hope College class of 1942; served as an enlisted man in the US Army Signal Corps, 1942-1945 (Europe from 1943-1945); Western Theological Seminary class of 1949; licensed in Classis Wisconsin, 1949; ordained by Classis Rochester, 1949; pastorates included Palmyra, New York, 1949-1951; Fourth Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1951-1955; first pastor of Zion Grandville, Michigan, 1955-1961; Hingham Wisconsin, 1961-1965; and founding pastor of Calvary, Des Moines, Iowa, 1965-1970; Field Secretary of the Regional Synod of Mid-America, 1970-1985; member of the staff of the Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, California, 1985-1993, where Maassen and his wife, Harriet, initially served as co-directors of the Adult Education Department. Maassen later served as dean of the chapel, teacher of the very large Home Builders Class, minister to senior citizens and organizer and director of the Safari Club, which planned and conducted tours to various parts of the world; served in various denominational and community capacities including the Board of Trustees of Hope College, and as a volunteer at the Joint Archives of Holland since 1993. Collection includes materials dealing with his work as teacher and staff member at the Crystal Cathedral; lectures and courses; correspondence and papers that relate to the educational and adult programs of the Cathedral; extensive biographical materials, and letters from his time of service during World War II.

Accession No:	W00-1255
Provenance:	John H. Maassen
Donor:	John H. Maassen
Photographs:	18 images
Processed by:	John H. Maassen, September 2000

Biography

John Howard Maassen was born May 5, 1920, in the parsonage of the Beaverdam Reformed Church of rural Zeeland, Michigan, to the Rev. Herman Maassen and Jannetta Kleinjan Maassen. In 1922, he was moved to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and in 1930, his family moved to rural Holland, Michigan, where his father served the North Holland Reformed Church. He graduated from Holland High School in 1938 and from Hope College in 1942, with a major in English and a secondary school certificate.

He served as an enlisted man in the US Army Signal Corps from 1942 to 1945 and in Europe from 1943-1945. After his discharge, he was one of the first class of overseas World War II veterans to matriculate at Western Theological Seminary. He graduated in 1949, was licensed in Classis Wisconsin and ordained by Classis Rochester, where he served the Reformed Church of Palmyra, New York. His ensuing pastorates included Fourth Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1951-1955; first pastor of Zion Grandville, Michigan, 1955-1961; Hingham Wisconsin, 1961-1965; and founding pastor of Calvary, Des Moines, Iowa, 1965-1970. He served as Field Secretary of the Regional Synod of Mid-America from 1970-1985. In 1985, he and his wife,

Harriet Muyskens, an educator, were called out of retirement to join the staff of the Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, California. There they initially served as co-directors of the Adult Education Department.

Maassen later served as dean of the chapel, teacher of the very large Home Builders Class, minister to senior citizens and organizer and director of the Safari Club, which planned and conducted tours to various parts of the world. In 1993, they retired a second time and moved to Holland, Michigan. Maassen has served in various denominational and community capacities including the Board of Trustees of Hope College. He has served as a volunteer at the Joint Archives of Holland since 1993.

John H. Maassen passed away on August 10, 2009.

Scope and Content

Maassen was more of a “tosser” than a “keeper.” The bulk of the collection deals with his work as teacher and staff member at the Crystal Cathedral. There are lectures and courses that he presented and correspondence and papers that relate to the educational and adult programs of the Cathedral. There are also extensive biographical materials.

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