



TITLE: Sunshine Church collection

DATE RANGE: 1980-2013

CALL NUMBER: MS 1500

LOCATION: Arizona History Museum, 949 E Second St, Tucson, AZ 85719

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.5 linear ft. (1 box)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Martha T. Wills, 2014.

RESTRICTIONS ON USE: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to Arizona Historical Society, Library & Archives.

PREFERRED CITATION: Arizona Historical Society, Sunshine Church Collection, MS 1500

PROCESSED BY: Collection was formerly in the small manuscripts collection under SMS 90. Tory Bellavance reprocessed the collection in 2018.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Pastor William O. Wills Jr. (1954-2013) founded the Sunshine Church in 1984 with the purpose of "breaking down the social and racial barriers in the Body of Christ." Three years later, he created the Racial Reconciliation Community Outreach Network (RRCON). Wills was inspired by his father's participation in the Vermont Plan, a program dedicated to bringing children together from different backgrounds and ethnicity without prejudice, specifically by building a relationship between the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, New York and Congressional Methodist Church in Johnson, Vermont.

The Sunshine Church sponsors yearly citywide conferences to discuss cultural and racial differences within the Christian community and work toward respectful collaboration. The church also works with the Arizona prison system, the Prayer House, Women's Aglow, Tucson Prayer Partners, and Tucson area nursing homes as well as individuals within the community.

SUBJECT TERMS: Sunshine Church -- Tucson -- Arizona; Independent churches -- Arizona -- Tucson; Seminars and conferences

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: This collection contains Sunshine Church conference booklets from 1987-2012, which were published yearly and contained information about the

goals of the church, active members, patrons, and conference schedule. In 1999, Sunshine Church conference booklets took on the name *HIS GRACE* magazine, which stood for "Helping Individuals Succeed (by Becoming) God's Reconciling Agents Chosen (for) Excellence." The collection also contains historical information about the church and biographical information about William O. Wills Sr. and Jr.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Conference Booklets	1987-1999
	2	Conference Booklets	2000-2012
	3	History and Biography	1980-2013