

H.M.S. Richards, pioneer religious broadcaster, was the founder and long-time speaker of the Voice of Prophecy radio ministry. His ministry inspired broadcasts in dozens of languages on more than 1,000 stations worldwide, as well as Bible courses in some 80 languages offered by more than 125 correspondence schools.

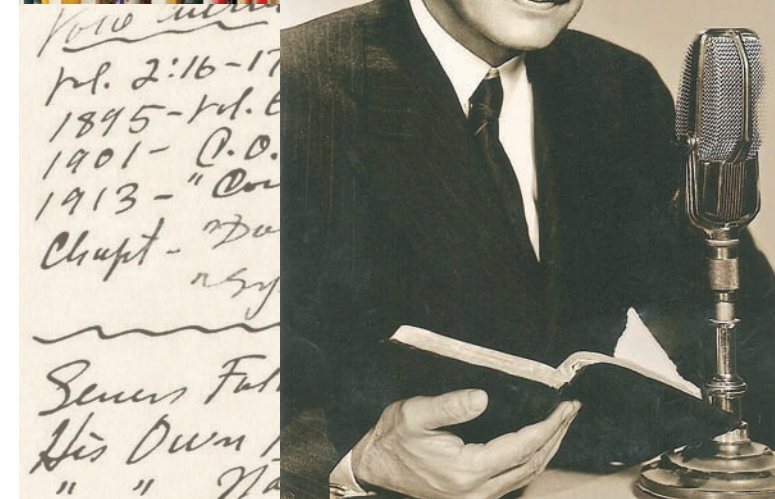
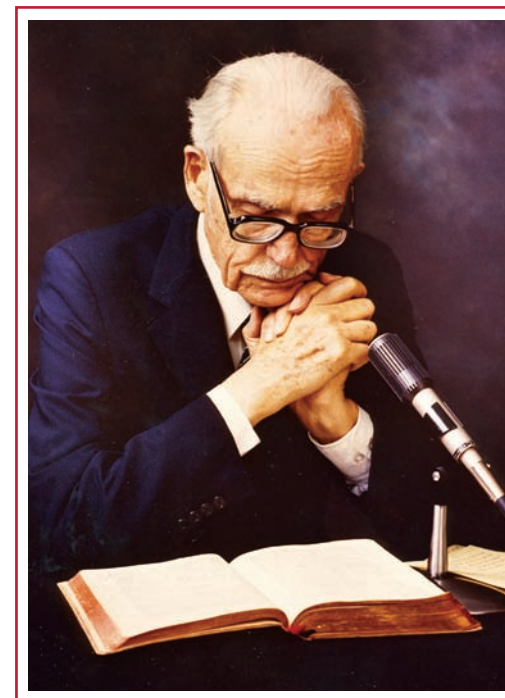
Upon graduation from college in 1919, H.M.S. Richards served as an evangelist in various places in the United States and Canada. In the 1920s in California he began experimenting with radio announcements for his meetings. He began regular radio broadcasts on October 19, 1929 on KNX (AM) in Los Angeles.

Later, Richards presented daily live broadcasts of The Tabernacle of the Air over KGER in Long Beach, and live weekly remote broadcasts from his tabernacle to KMPC (AM) in Beverly Hills. In January 1937 his footprint expanded over a network of several stations of the Don Lee Broadcasting System, and the name of the broadcast was changed to the Voice of Prophecy. His first coast-to-coast broadcast over 89 stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System was on Sunday, January 4, 1942.

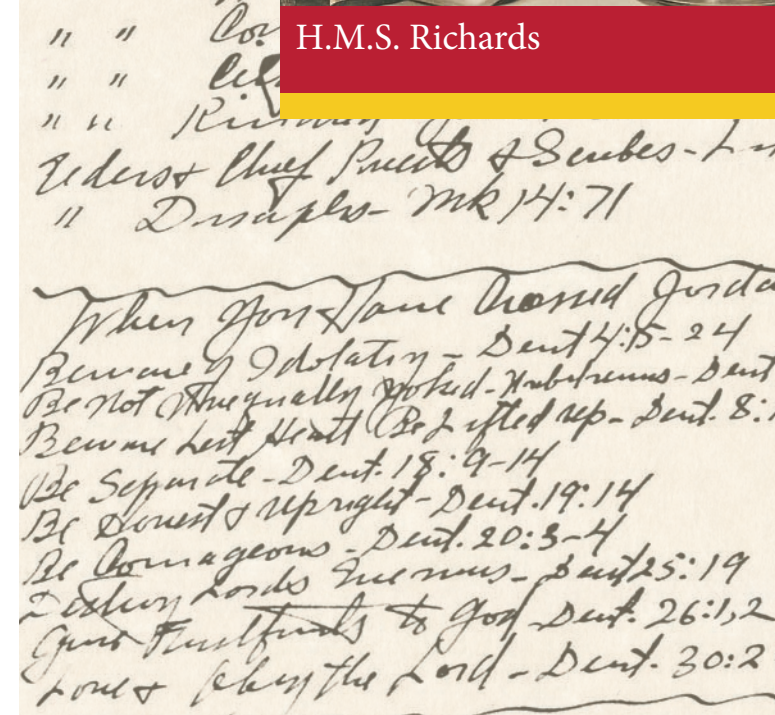


Special Acknowledgements

- The family of H.M.S. Richards who generously gifted the La Sierra University with the name of HMS Richards for the university's Divinity School and with Elder Richards' personal library.
- Dr. Walt Cason, son-in-law of Elder HMS and Mabel Richards, whose vision to preserve the memory of HMS Richards for the 21st century has been largely responsible for the establishment of the library at La Sierra University and raising funds to support the library's operations.
- Connie Lorenz, who is responsible for cataloging the library collection, with the assistance of Kitty Simmons, library director at La Sierra University and Christina Viramontes, technical service librarian in the university library.
- Tony Zbaraschuk, trained reference librarian who, along with student Diana Delgadillo, is archiving all of HMS Richards' sermons and broadcast scripts and scanning them in searchable format to make them accessible to students and pastors.



H.M.S. Richards



Notes from a page in Elder Richards' Bible

The HMS Richards Library AT LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY



**H.M.S. Richards
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The HMS Richards Library AT LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY



*The personal collection
of a radio religious broadcasting
pioneer and spiritual leader*

The Richards library and study center contains the personal book collection of Elder Richards, developed over a half-century of ministry, containing 10,000 volumes. The collection is built around standard reference works: the major encyclopedias, Bible commentaries, dictionaries, and other sources. Additionally, the collection spans many subjects reflecting the breadth of Elder Richards' interests. While strong in homiletics, evangelism, and radio broadcasting, it also has major sections of history, theology, and literature. There are many biographies of individuals whose life stories provide examples of faith and devotion.



These books and associated materials provided the wellspring from which Elder Richards drew for his weekly radio broadcasts. Ideas, theology, illustrations and poetry all arose from his constant reading. His neighbors recall seeing him often walking along the sidewalk—never without a book held up before his eyes.

The library represents his personal investment, built up on the slender salary of an Adventist pastor. While he commanded respect as one of America's earliest radio evangelists, he always lived a very simple and modest life.

Most of these books were purchased from used book dealers. Over the years, Elder Richards developed friendships with dealers who knew his interests, and helped him locate particular items. These relationships developed into long-term friendships.

With one dealer in London, Elder Richards established an informal "open account," paying a few dollars each month as he was able, while adding little by little to his holdings. Whenever his travel assignments took him through England, he took the opportunity to visit this dealer, who on occasion allowed him to spend the night among the shelves of volumes!

The HMS Richards Library and Study Center
The Richards library and study center also includes complementary materials, subject files, sermon notes, photographs, and other materials documenting evangelistic campaigns, denominational conferences and campmeetings, along with other memorabilia. Of particular interest are hundreds of stereopticon slides used in evangelistic meetings and large disk recordings of his radio programs spanning decades and preserving the voices of the King's Heralds quartet and soloist Del Delker, along with that of Elder Richards himself.

The research value of the HMS Richards Library collections for students and ministers is beyond calculation. The library will provide a rich resource for evangelistic history and practice for years to come.

Supporting the Work of the HMS Richards Library

Many opportunities are available for those who wish to honor the HMS Richards legacy, and who wish to support the important work of the library. These include contributing to the HMS Richards Library Endowment, financial support of library operations, and creating student assistantships. Estate gifts in the form of wills, trusts and annuities are also vital avenues of long-term support.

Contact the HMS Richards Divinity School office for more information about ways to make a gift, including strategies for including philanthropy in an estate plan.

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For the purposes of strengthening the development program at La Sierra University, five percent of all gifts will be used to partially defray related fund raising costs. We welcome your feedback as we steward the essential gifts necessary to fulfill the mission of La Sierra University.