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W91-1042. Schuller, Robert H. (1926-2015).  
Papers, 1954-1992. 1.00 linear ft.

Western Theological Seminary

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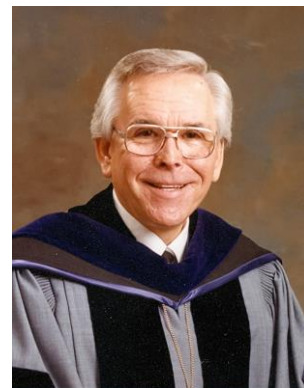
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### Abstract

Minister of the Reformed Church in America and pastor of the Crystal Cathedral. Collection of secondary materials documenting the life and work of Schuller. Includes articles, interviews, and publicity regarding the success of the Garden Grove, California, church, the *Hour of Power* and the Crystal Cathedral.

Accession No.: W91-1042  
Provenance: Western Theological Seminary  
Donor: Western Theological Seminary  
Photographs: 14 images (Box 1)  
Processed by: Larry J. Wagenaar, December 1991

### Biography

Robert H. Schuller was born in Alton, Iowa, in 1926, in a small, rural Dutch ethnic community. He graduated from Hope College in 1947 and Western Theological Seminary in 1950. He was licensed and ordained in 1950. After serving a Chicago church from 1950-1955, he began a unique ministry in Garden Grove, California, using the top of a drive-in concession stand. Parishioners stayed in their cars for the service. Schuller also began a traditional church at the same time. In 1961, a church was built which incorporated both concepts and allowed the pastor to address both groups. The Tower of Hope, a multi-story ministry complex, was constructed shortly after the new sanctuary.

The ministry continued to grow, incorporating a nationally televised program of Sunday church services entitled the *Hour of Power*. In 1978, groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new Crystal Cathedral, which was dedicated in 1980. Robert A. Schuller, the founder's son, joined the ministry after attending Hope College and Fuller Theological Seminary.

Robert H. Schuller has authored numerous books incorporating his philosophy of possibility thinking including *Power Ideas For a Happy Family*, *Your Church Has Real Possibilities*, *The Be Happy Attitudes*, and *The Power of Being Debt Free*.

Schuller passed away early on the morning of April 2, 2015, at a nursing facility in Artesia, California, at the age of 88. His funeral was held at Christ Cathedral, the former campus of the Crystal Cathedral. He was interred next to his wife at the Christ Cathedral Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Garden Grove, California.

### Scope and Content

The collection contains secondary materials written by or about Robert Schuller which were collected by the Western Seminary library and the archives. Materials authored by Schuller give a glimpse at his development as a pastor. Those written by others include praise, criticism and in-depth analysis. The collection also traces the development of the *Hour of Power* and the Crystal Cathedral.

Container List

Box 1

- Crystal Cathedral, 1976-1984
  - Clippings, 1976-1979
  - Crystal Cathedral and *Hour of Power* Fundraising Dedication, 1980
  - Publications, *Crystal Cathedral News*, 1981
- Garden Grove Community Church
  - Clippings, 1959-1969
  - Publications, Garden Grove Community Church, 1962-1981 (scattered)
    - Calendar, 1984
    - New Hope News*, 1970, 1971
    - Possibilities*, 1983-1984
- Schuller, Robert H., 1954-1987
  - Articles by Robert H. Schuller, 1955-1969
  - Articles and Editorials about Robert Schuller, 1963-1985
  - Clippings, 1954-1992
  - Commercial Advertisements, 1971-1987
  - Correspondence, 1961-1965, 1969
  - Interviews, 1975, 1978
  - News Releases, n.d.
  - Sermons, 1967-1977

Box 2

- Schuller, Arvella, 1985
- Schuller, Robert A., Ordination 1980
- Photographs
  - Crystal Cathedral, n.d. (5 images)
  - Garden Grove Community Church, n.d. (5 images)
  - Schuller, Robert H., n.d (4 images)
- Robert H. Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership (ISCL)
  - Film Workshop
  - Institute Workbook, n.d.
    - Audio Tapes (5 items)
    - Christian Education
    - General Information
    - Growth Notes
    - Pastoral Care/Evangelism
    - Pastoral Services
    - Positive Songs of Faith*
    - Registration Correspondence
    - Self Study Guide for Pastors
  - Publication, *News-Views, Newsletter*