

COLLECTION 117: Robert Pierce Collection, 1950-1994

Administrative Information

Title:

Robert Pierce Collection, 1950-1994

Collection Identifier:

CFT00117

Creators:

Pierce, Robert

Size:

15 Boxes, 7.38 linear feet

Repository:

David Allan Hubbard Library
Fuller Theological Seminary
135 N Oakland Ave
Pasadena, CA 91182
archives@fuller.edu

Provenance:

The gift of Betty Ann Wagner and William Carey International University, Pasadena, CA.

Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:

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English

Processing:

Adam Gossman, Katherine I. Lee; Alyson Thomas, 2022

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Andrew Wong, June 2018; Alyson Thomas, 2022

Biography Note

Robert Willard Pierce (b. October 8, 1914 - d. September 6, 1978) founded World Vision International in 1950 and Samaritan's Purse in 1970. "Dr. Bob" is also known for founding the globally recognized Korean Orphans Choir (later renamed "Korean Children's Choir"). Their first world tour started in 1961, which included performances for Fuller Theological Seminary, U.S. President Eisenhower, India's Prime Minister Nehru, The Ed Sullivan Show, and Carnegie Hall. Many government leaders and heads of state honored Dr. Pierce's work and "Christ-like compassion-in-action." On three separate occasions, the president of South Korea presented him with the highest honor South Korea can bestow upon a foreigner.

Converted at an early age, Dr. Pierce felt called to serve God until his death in The City of Hope Medical Center. Dr. Pierce studied for the ministry at Pasadena Nazarene College in California. His work in producing the first Christian films earned him a Litt.D. from Northwestern College in Minneapolis. He married Lorraine Johnson, and had three daughters: Sharon, Marilee, and Robin.

In 1940, Dr. Pierce was ordained by the Baptist church and became involved with Youth for Christ (YFC). He participated in YFC's evangelical rallies in China until 1950. His exposure to the China and Korea's wartime conditions, poverty, and needs of war orphans led to his founding of World Vision International in 1950.

Published works include:

This Way to the Harvest, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. House (1949)

The Untold Korean Story, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. House (1951)

Emphasizing Missions in the Local Church, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. House (1964)

Orphans of the Orient: Stories That Will Touch Your Heart, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. House (1964)

The Korean Orphan Choir: They Sing Their Thanks, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. House (1965)

Big Day at Da Me, Waco, TX: Word Books (1968)

Related Collections:

Wayfarers Ministry Newsletters of Betty Ann Wagner
World Vision International Collection (unprocessed)

Scope and Content

The Robert Pierce Collection primarily contains transcripts of Pierce's personal oral history interviews (1977-1978) and those he conducted with World Vision missionaries in person or via radio broadcast (1950s-1970s). Tapes are interspersed throughout the collection.

The records were used as resources for the 1983 publication, *Bob Pierce: This One Thing I Do* by Franklin Graham and Jeanette Lockerbie (Waco, TX: Word Books). A copy of the rough draft and associated correspondence is included.

"Thank you" letters sent to Wayfarers Ministries are included at the end of the collection. Betty Ann Wagner, one of Pierce's initial co-workers at Samaritan's Purse, was the primary correspondent. Dates range from 1981-1994.

Many transcripts were copied and arranged by topic. In some cases, the same transcript may be found filed under multiple subjects. Those folders are arranged according to Wagner's original organization.

Subjects:

- China
- Japan
- Korea
- Taiwan (Formosa)
- Missionaries
- Missions
- Samaritan's Purse (Organization)
- World Vision International

Box Inventory

Box 1: Missionary Interview Transcripts, Broadcast Material, Biographical Material, 1977

Folder	Folder Title	Interviewees/Speakers	Recording Date
1	How RP Got His First Orphan	Steve and Mary Nicholson	20 December 1977
2	Dick Ross and RP, how they met etc.	Dick Ross	7 January 1978
3	Lee Bernard and RP, how they met etc	Lee Bernard	10 January 1978
4	RP with Mitchells, City of Hope	Hubert and Rachael Mitchell	11 December 1977
5	RP Trip around the world	Bob Pierce, various	March – May 1977
6	Alyward, Gladys	Bob Pierce	1959
7	American Church in Paris	Bob Pierce, Carlton Booth, Clayton Williams	
8	Appeals by Dr. Pierce	Bob Pierce	1957-1962
9	Mainland China, Tragedy near Kunming	Bob Pierce, Larry Ward	1957-1962
10	Christmas	Bob Pierce, Larry Ward, Marilee	1957-1961
11	Closings	Bob Pierce	1956
12	RP and Crisis (The Chinese)	Bob Pierce	6 September 1959
13	Ellsworth Culver	Ellsworth Culver, Nancy Tong, Geraldine Peterson	
14	Dickson, Lillian	Bob Pierce, Lillian Dickson	1956-1962
15	Hillis, Dick	Bob Pierce, Dick Hillis	1956
16	RP interviews Peter Dyneka	Peter Dyneka	
17	Easter	Bob Pierce, Joe Gooden	1958, 1960
18	First Broadcast	Bob Pierce, Frank Philips, Dawson Trotman	1 July 1956
19	Formosa	Bob Pierce, Dick Halverson, Carlton Booth, Bob Boardman, Larry Ward	1956-1962
20	RP report and prayer, Hungary and Austria	Bob Pierce	1956-1957
21	Giving	Bob Pierce	1957-1962

Box 2: Missionary Interview Transcripts, Broadcast Material, Biographical Material, 1977

Folder	Folder Title	Interviewees/Speakers	Recording Date
1	Han, Dr. Chung Chik and Korean Church		19 April 1959
2	Heroes of the Cross	Bob Pierce, Chung Chik Han, Charles McCoy, Bjorgas, Adonirum Judson, Rachel ?	1956-1960
3	Hoffman, Niles	Bob Pierce	
4	Hong Kong	Bob Pierce, Dick Halverson, Gretchen Webster, David Morken	1956-1961

5	Hymns	Bob Pierce	1956-1959
6	Illias, Dr. Antonio	Antonio Illias, Ben Pearson	
7	India	Bob Pierce, Larry Ward, C.K. Athially, Subodh Sahu, George Kaiser, E. Stanley Jones, Dick Halverson	1956-1964
8	RP India (Assam-Famine)	Bob Pierce, Walter Corlett	1960
9	Japan	Bob Pierce, Larry Ward, R.S. Nicholson, Carlton Booth, Alan Redpath	1956-1964
10	Korea (Emergency Needs)	Bob Pierce	1956, 1959
11	Kilbourne Family	Bob Pierce, Elmer Kilbourne	1958-1959
12	Korea	Bob Pierce, Donald Barnhouse, Frank Phillips, Dick Halverson, Han Kiung Jik, et al.	1956-1961
13	Korea – Confession of a Martyr	Bob Pierce	12 August 1959
14	Korea – Harold Voelkel (Koje Do Island, Pastor Im)	Bob Pierce	1958-1959
15	Korea – Sigmund Rhee	Bob Pierce	
16	Lepers – Picture of Jesus	Bob Pierce, Larry Ward	1960-1962
17	Miscellaneous (half page or less)	Bob Pierce, Walter Judd, Senator Carlson, Carlton Booth	1956-1964
18	Letters – Partners from Edward H. Smith	Bob Pierce	1958-1961
19	Lepers – Taiwan	Bob Pierce, Dr. Morrell, Lil Dickson	1956-1962
20	Martyrs	Bob Pierce	1956, 1959
21	Madame Chiang Kai Shek	Bob Pierce, Dick Halverson, Rhee, Bishop Sobropina, et al	20 October 1957
22	Mission Organizations	Bob Pierce	1959
23	Life Begins at 40, Charles McCoy	Bob Pierce	
24	Mission Report	Bob Pierce, Lil Dickson, Frank Phillips, Norman Nelson	1957-1961
25	Missionaries	Bob Pierce, Jack and Ruth Buck	1959

Box 3: Missionary Interview Transcripts, Broadcast Material, Biographical Material, 1977

Folder	Folder Title	Interviewees/Speakers	Recording Date
1	Missionaries	Bob Pierce, Widmeyer, Francis, Morken, Donnithorne, Robertson, Norman Nelson, Giselfoss	1959-1964
2	Missionaries and Trials	Bob Pierce, Larry Ward	1957-1962
3	World Vision Musicians	Bob Pierce, Howard Skinner, Carlton Booth	1957-1959

4	RP and Frank Phillips, needs	Bob Pierce, Frank Phillips	1957-1958
5	Orphans and Widows	Bob Pierce, Larry Ward, Frank Phillips, Dick Halverson	1958-1962
6	Osaka Crusade	Bob Pierce, Carlton Booth, Larry Ward, Bill Jones	1959
7	Pastor's Conferences, worldwide	Bob Pierce, Carlton Booth, Dick Halverson, C.K. Athialy, Paul Rees	1956-1962
8	Philippines	Bob Pierce	1956-1957
9	Philippines (Moro's Boy Story)	Bob Pierce	30 December 1956
10	Pierce, Dr. Bob (The Man)	Bob Pierce, Larry Ward, Carlton Booth, Dick Halverson, Ted Engstrom	1956-1964
11	Conversation with Flloyd McClung	Betty, Floyd McClung, Roger Arneberg	9 November 1978
12	Prayer	Bob Pierce, Wilbur Smith, Paul Rees	1956-1970

Box 4: Missionary Interview Transcripts, Broadcast Material, Biographical Material, 1977

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Prayer	1956-1970
2	Betty Ann Wagner personal insurance information	1979
3	Arnebergh, Roger; including Last Days of Bob Pierce from Betty Wagner, copy of Bob Pierce's will	1978-1979
4	Bible Study, Ruth Myers	
5	China Information from Annie Kartoizian	

Box 4: Missionary Interview Transcripts with Audio Recordings

Folder	Folder Title	Date
6	Pierce, Des Moines, Iowa	17 September 1950
7	Pierce, Calcutta	11-13 May 1975
8	Anderson, Ken	6 April 1977
9	Pierce, Tempe, Arizona	9 January 1977
10	Pierce, Beirut, Lebanon	1 August 1978
11	Dagher, Graham, Beirut, Lebanon	6 June 1978
12	Tim Coopers, Shell City, Ecuador	7 July 1978
13	Joon Lew	23 November 1977
14	Bill and Carole Clapp, Jim Hedlund, Shell City, Ecuador	6 July 1978

Box 5: Missionary Interview Transcripts

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Doug Cozart, Seoul, Korea	16 May 1978
2	Kilbourne Home, Dr. Han, Seoul, Korea	22 May 1978
3	Ralph Carmichael	11 December 1977
4	Nadine Stitt	8 January 1978
5	Pierce, Chuck Bennett, Ted Dienert	22 April 1976
6	Lillian Dickson (Banquet)	
7	Gloria and Ron Robertson	3 January 1978

Box 5: Interview Transcripts

Folder	Folder Title	Date
8	Albert, Beth – China, India	24 February 1978
9	Amerian Church in Paris – Clayton E. Williams	
10	Asian Culture	
11	Barnhouse, Dr. Donald Gray	23 September 1956
12	Bernard, Lee – How Lee and Bob Pierce First Met, Korea War	10 January 1978
13	Blackfoot (Taiwan)	
14	Bolivia Project – Larry Ward	
15	Britain Evangelistic Meetings – Don	
16	Buck, Jack and Ruth – Missionary, Missions, Indonesia	
17	Burma – Larry Ward, Missionary, Missions	
18	Carey Church, Calcutta	
19	China Challenge	
20	China, Mainland (1960)	
21	China, Sisters, German – Beth	
22	China, My First Trip – Bea Van Meter Experiences, Kunming Pierce, Sermon – 1950 at Winona Lake on return from Korea	15 February 1978 1950
23	China, My Second Trip	
24	Confidential	
25	Cozart, Doug – Wan Sol Lee, Ehe Chan Lou, Search for Linda	

Box 6: Interview Transcripts

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Culver, Ellsworth	4 February 1978
2	De Vos, Don	
3	Dickson, Lillian and Jim	1956, 1959, 1977
4	Donaldson, Foster (Foss)	
5	Films, Missionary – Dick Ross	
6	Formosa – Missionary, Missions (Pingtung, Formosa)	1959
7	Forward, Pierce Prayer	
8	Francis, Mabel – Missionary, Missions	

9	Franks, Jim	23 January 1978
10	Gehman, Richard – Ells	
11	Gislefoss, Bjarne – Missionary, Missions	
12	Giving	
13	Graham, Billy	
14	Greece	
15	Han, Dr. Chung Chik	
16-17	Heroes of the Cross	
18	Hong Kong	
19	How RP Got First Orphan (First edit)	7 March 1978
20	Hsaio, Anna	
21	Hunt, Garth – Jim	
22	India, Assam (1960)	
23	Innovations (Pastors Conference)	
24	In Soon Lee – Korea, Orphan’s Choir, Jim	
25	Ireland – Don	
26	Japan, Crusades – Larry, Jim	
27	Japan, Keswick Conference	
28	Japan, Tokyo Crusade Experience – Jim	
29	Kartozian, Annie	
30	Keum Ja Kim – Jim Franks Korea, Orphans Choir	11 May 1979
31	Kilbourne Family (Elmer 1959)	
32	Korea – Sygman Rhee, Pierce return after war started, Lillian Ross, War days, Crusades, Bible Correspondence School, Pierce First Trip	
33	Korea – Boys Town	
34	Korea – Bible Schools	
35	Korea – Children’s Hospital, Missionary, Missions, Seoul, Taegu Hospital (1959)	
36	Korea Crusade	October 1957
37	Korea Experiences	
38	Korea – First Trip	
39	Korea – Halfway House	
40	Korea – Handicapped	
41	Korea – Lepers, Leprosy	
42	Korea – Orphans Choir	

Box 7: Interview Transcripts

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Korea – Orphans and Widows	
2	Korea – Pre-Dawn Prayer Meetings	
3	Korea – President Park Chung Hee	
4	Korea – Varous Associates	

5	Korea – War Days	
6	Madame Chiang Kai Shek (1957)	
7	Missionary Doctor Qualifications	
8	Missionary, Missions	
9	Mitchell, Hubert	
10	Moffett, Dr. Sam	
11	Morken, David and Helen	
12	Nelson, Norman	
13	Newman, John	
14	Nicholson, R.S.	11 October 1959
15	Orient Crusades	
16	Oriental Boat Mission	
17	Orphans, Adoption (1956)	
18	Osaka Crusade, Tokyo Crusade	
19	Overseas Crusades, Bud Schaefer	
20	Pastors Conference, Indonesia (1959)	
21	Pastors Conference, Japan (1957)	
22	Pastors Conference, Korea	
23	Pastors Conference, Malaya	June 1960
24	Pastors Conference, Philippines	
25	Pastors Conference, Taiwan	
26	Pastors Conferene, Vietnam	
27	Pescadores, The	
28	Pierce, China Experiences	1978
29	Pierce, Honors	
30	Pierce, The Man	
31	Pierce, Parents and Family	
32	Pierce, Prayers	
33	Pierce, Sermons	
34	Pierce, Youth Before China	
35	Pierce, The Man (Altar Call)	
36	Pierce, Travels (Afghanistan, Assam, India)	
37	Price, Bill	
38	Raetz, Erwin	
39	Redpath, Dr. Alan	
40	Rhee, Dr. Sigmund	
41	Robertson, Olga – Missionary, Missions	
42	Ross, Dick	
43	Sale, Mrs. Elizabeth	
44	Samaritan’s Purse	

Box 8: Interview Transcripts

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Samaritan's Purse of India	
2	Taiwan	
3	Taiwan, Church of the Lepers	
4	Taiwan, Lepers	
5	Taiwan, Pierce Experiences	
6	Taiwan, Pierce First Trip	
7	Thailand, Lepers – Missionary, Missions	
8	Thrashers, Lillian – Missionary, Missions	
9	Through the Valley of the Shadow	1975-1978
10	To Do	
11	Tokyo Crusade	
12	Tornquist, Evie	
13	Tribute to Bob Pierce – Barbara Donaldson, Kilbourne, Kelly Walberg	1978
14	Vietnam, Children's City	
15	Vietnam, Closing Days	
16	Vietnam, Early Days	
17	Vietnam, Montagnards	5 February 1978
18	Vietnam, Pierce Paratyphoid	
19	Vietnam, War Experience	
20	Vietnam, World Vision Property	
21	Vinh, Major	
22	Ward, Franks, Robert Pierce	
23	Widmeyer, Dr. and Mrs. C.B. – Missionary, Missions	
24	Wolgemuth, Sam	
25	Wong, Kenneth (Mainland China)	
26	World Vision, Early Days	
27	World Vision, How Began	
28	World Vision Men	10 March 1957
29	World Vision, Radio	

Box 8: Rough Draft of Biography of Bob Pierce

Folder	Folder Title	Date
30	Chapter 1: Pierce, The Man	
31	Pierce, The Man	
32	Chapter 2: My Early Training, From God	
33	My Early Training, From God	
34	Chapter 3: Earn The Right	
35	Earn The Right	
36	Chapter 4: God's Ambassador	
37	God's Ambassador	

38	Chapter 5: China, The Challenge	
39	China, The Challenge	

Box 9: Rough Draft of Biography of Bob Pierce

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Chapter 6: Korea, My Beloved Second Home	
2	Korea, My Beloved Second Home	
3	Chapter 7: Korea, My Second Trip	
4	Korea, My Second Trip	
5	Chapter 8: Vietnam	Empty folder
6	Chapter 9: Around-the-World	Empty folder
7	Chapter 10: Innovations	
8	Innovations	
9	Chapter 11: Japan – Satan’s Battlefield	Empty folder
10	Chapter 12: Pierce, The Soul Winner	
11	Pierce, The Soul Winner	
12	Chapter 13: Lives Bob Pierce Changed	Empty folder
13	Chapter 14: A Few of My Personal Heroes of the Cross	Empty folder
14	Chapter 15: Through the Valley	Empty folder
15	Chapter 16: Roots	
16	Roots	
17	Index, etc.	
18	Book Notes	

Box 9: Unsorted Interview transcripts and miscellaneous

Folder	Folder Title	Date
19	Pending – Tapes to Come	1978
20	Wilson, Christy	
21	Mustard Seed Board Meeting, Robert Pierce comments	25 August 1978
22	Phil Lind Interview with Robert Pierce	24 November 1960
23	Peggy Moore Correspondence	1977-1978
24	Robert Pierce an World Vision Board Group at City of Hope	16 December 1977
25	Gruman Trip – October ‘75	
26	David Lamb School	
27	Flight to Nipsum – Site of 13 Christians killed, etc	28 March 1978
28	Robert Pierce and Robert and Arvella Schuller at City of Hope	12 December 1977

Box 10: Unsorted Interview transcripts and miscellaneous

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Robert Pierce and Chuck Bennett of M.A.F. and John Karetji at City of Hope	16 December 1977

2	Note	December 1977
3	Young Nak Pres. Ch. Dedication, Seoul, Korea	21 May 1978
4	World Vision Seoul Banquet	20 May 1978
5	Robert Pierce, Dick Furman, Frank Graham to Irian Jaya and Papua	March to April 1978
6	BW and Dr. Marlowe	8 December 1977
7	Robert Pierce and Verle Lindley (at City of Hope Hospital)	10 December 1977
8	Robert Pierce, Roger Arnebergh, Fred Whitaker and BW at City of Hope	6 December 1977
9	Through the Valley of the Shadow	24 August 1978
10	World Vision Banquet for Dr. Bob Pierce	16 January 1975
11	Samaritan's Diary No. 3 – Robert Pierce Faith Trip to Shanghai, etc.	
12	Samaritan's Diary No. 2, working info	
13	Samaritan's Diary No. 2	
14	Sharon Pierce, Nadine, and Clariss	October 1966
15	Robert Pierce Interview with Lillian Ross in Taegu, Korea – adopting orphans and state of Korean church	15 September 1963
16	October Trip Notes	1977
17	D.S. Sample Chapters	
18	Robert Pierce book	
19	Lillian Dickson and Robert Pierce	29 November 1972
20	Bob Pierce Message in India	14 November 1960
21	Robert Pierce Interview	14 November 1960
22	Robert Pierce and David Adney Interview in Hong Kong	24 November 1960

Box 11: Unsorted Interview transcripts and miscellaneous

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Vietnam	

Box 11: Biographical Reports

Folder	Folder Title	Date
2	Biographical Reports – A	
3	Biographical Reports – B	
4	Biographical Reports – C	
5	Biographical Reports – D	
6	Biographical Reports – E	
7	Biographical Reports – F	
8	Biographical Reports – G	
9	Biographical Reports – H	
10	Biographical Reports – I	
11	Biographical Reports – J	
12	Biographical Reports – K	

13	Biographical Reports – L	
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Box 12: Biographical Reports and Thank you letters

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Biographical Reports – M	
2	Biographical Reports – N	
3	Biographical Reports – O	
4	Biographical Reports – P	
5	Biographical Reports – Q	
6	Biographical Reports – R	
7	Biographical Reports – S	
8	Biographical Reports – T	
9	Biographical Reports – U	
10	Biographical Reports – V	
11	Biographical Reports – W	
12	Biographical Reports – X, Y, Z	
13	Wayfarers Ministries monthly thank you letters	1995-1997
14	Wayfarers Ministries monthly thank you letters	1993-1994

Box 13: Thank you letters

Folder	Folder Title	Date
1	Wayfarers Ministries monthly thank you letters	1987-1992
2	Wayfarers Ministries monthly thank you letters	1981-1986

Box 14: Photographs and Memorabilia

Box 15: Audio Cassette Recordings of Pierce's Interviews, 1977-1978