

Eddie and Sherry Richards' Biography

Eddie and Sherry Richards are former cast members of the Biblical Times Dinner Theater in Pigeon Forge, TN, who now travel full time as a word and music evangelistic ministry team. The couple has been sharing the gospel together since their marriage in 1984, and their heart for ministry has helped to lead countless souls to the Lord and encourages others on their continued walk with Christ. As a result, God continues to open doors for their ministry to perform throughout the United States and abroad.

In their almost 35 years of marriage, Eddie and Sherry Richards have been part of several regional music groups including, *The Richards*, *Greater Love*, *Southern Gold*, *The Sounds of Victory* and *The Singing Nippers*. As well, Sherry has filled in for long time Queen of Gospel Music, Connie Hopper of Southern Gospel's First Family, the *The Hoppers*. The couple has recorded countless projects over the years and been invited to perform on some of Gospel music's largest events including *Myrtle Beach Singing in the Sun*, *Gaffinburg Gathering*, *Branson's Silver Dollar City* and the *National Quartet Convention* among others.

Their ministry is open to appearing any day of the week and now includes not only music, but the spoken word, as they lead multi-day revivals, "*Java & Jewels*" (a women's coffee and devotional social with Sherry), "*Tee It Up*" (a men's golf and devotional social with Eddie), "*A Time Away*" (night or multi-day) retreat for Couples, Single Parents and/or Teens and Youth, and a word to the youth in their Sunday School classes or Youth meeting which focuses on the benefits of starting your walk with God early in life and where in the Bible to find the answers to all your questions about everyday life.

Eddie began in music as a secular soloist in his early 20's and after a major life change a few years later, he joined a local southern gospel singing family who was instrumental in him meeting Sherry. Sherry began singing at age 5 in the local church children choir where her mother was the director and her father the church "song leader". Her family began traveling the country in music ministry when she was 8 years old and she has continued in ministry since that time. Sherry was awarded her minister's license in 2015, after receiving the required education through Maranatha College.

Eddie and Sherry met at a concert in January, 1984, and married 8 months later. They have one son and 3 grandchildren. They are originally from Christiansburg, VA where they resided until 2016, when the Lord suddenly moved them out of their complacency in Virginia to Pigeon Forge, TN.

On the last Tuesday of January, 2016, Eddie received notice that, in less than 24 hours, his job of almost 14 years, along with the couple's sole income, was being eliminated in a company downsize. In the following two days, the Lord provided positions for both Eddie and Sherry as vocalists/cast members at the Biblical Times Dinner Theater in Pigeon Forge, TN. After meeting with the owner and GM and signing contracts with the theater, they returned home to immediately pack up the RV they had purchased 25 days earlier, not knowing any of this was about to happen, and moved to Pigeon Forge TN, beginning work on that following Monday, February 1, 2016, and committing 6 days a week until December 31 of that year. Though it was both stressful and emotional leaving their friends and family, their church, their home and all familiarity, and selling or giving away EVERYTHING they owned, they knew this move was God-orchestrated when, among many other things, their house sold in two weeks within \$2,000 of their asking price. See there were five other homes in their neighborhood that had been on the market for two years without as much as an offer. They KNEW it was God. During their time at the theater, they met countless people who told them they should consider taking their ministry back on the road where they could minister to more people. After much prayer and fasting for guidance over that year, in January, 2017, the couple did just that. Stepping out in total faith, they left the theater to return to ministry on the road, but this time, as full time RVers, giving their all to their ministry now in word and song. It was then that God began to open doors they had never seen open before and He continues to do that even now.