

## Dedication of Rood Hall Multiple Speakers

[00:00:03.43] - Dr. Clyde Cook

I just have the good stuff. So, he knew Paul personally, interviewed on the Biola in 1955. Al Sanders is the chairman of ambassador advertising which produces radio programs for many Christian organizations. Actually he changed the whole nature of the industry. He's one of the people that God uses to change the direction of millions of lives around the world

[00:00:32.78]

He attended Biola University when it was located in downtown Los Angeles and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Theology in 1949. He produced, directed, and announced the Biola radio program for 40 years in 1952. He originally worked on the Biola hour as a student where he met his wife Margie. [Inaudible] Margaret you played such an incredible role in all of this you know. We know Al and he never could have done it without you.

[00:01:10.36] - Al Sanders

It says here to wait for thunderous applause. [Laughter]

[00:01:10.36] - Dr. Clyde Cook

Let me read the rest of it here. It says only wait 2 seconds then keep moving. [Laughter]

[00:01:15.60] - Al Sanders

Oh Mercy. Here we are; we're just getting warmed up. It was doubtless the darkest hour in Biola's 27 year history at that point when God called Dr. Paul Rood at the age of 45 to serve as the school's third president. Unquestionably in deciding to come his constant concern that young people might secure a solid Biblical foundation was paramount in his mind.

[00:01:39.37]

Those who may not know the Depression had hit the west coast several years later than its devastation to the eastern seaboard. When both the stock market collapsed and banks closed their doors. How did it all impact Biola? Well as you heard salaries were more than three months behind no indication of when those meager wages could ever be met. Plus the school was already more than three million dollars in debt which would doubtless be equivalent in 1998 funds to ten times that amount.

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But for Dr. Rood it wasn't just a case of trying to bring financial stabilization to the institution.

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Also there was obviously demoralization and discouragement in the ranks students faculty and staff and that no doubt was Dr. Rood's greater concern. For in later years. Looking back he distinctly remembered the revival that came throughout the school's dormitory. One of the people responsible for the unique movement of God was Dick Hillas who with his brother Dunn were both students. These young men were already greatly concerned about the spiritual needs of people not only in Southern California but also throughout the world. Additionally believing in

the power of personal as well as corporate intercession as you read Dr. Rood called by the family together for entire days of dedicated prayer.

[00:02:53.53]

During his three year tenure the debt was reduced to less than 300000 as well as seeing the employees brought more current with their salary structures and all of that right at the height of the West Coast depression is truly a miraculous moving of God beyond most business organizations comprehension. As an illustration Dr. Rood's solid conviction concerning the power of prayer, there was a challenge from the school's business manager. He informed the leader that a bill for six thousand dollars was coming due in just two days. The bank account and any possible cash reserves were absolutely nil.

[00:03:29.74]

Dr. Rood instinctively went to his knees asking for the Lord's help and in less than two hours. An elderly couple arrived (I suppose about our age) wanting to meet the man whom they'd heard previously in revival service. As always Dr. Rood was patiently kind, not knowing anything more than that these were interested friends. After a few normal pleasantries the man flatly stated, "My wife and I just received a check from our insurance company and we want to hand it over for your work." Without looking Dr. Rood accepted the couple's generosity and upon their leaving found the amount was five thousand four hundred dollars.

[00:04:07.66]

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Next morning's mail brought the balance to six thousand so that the pressing financial obligation could be met. Believing in the significance of strong expositional preaching, as you've heard in 1936 the Torrey Memorial Bible conference was started and at the same time the school received provision to grant degrees in theology, music, and Christian education. It was also during this time that Dr. Rood continued challenging his friend Dr. Irvin Oberholtzer to begin a unique outreach to children. Up to that point, there had been nothing by way of a concentrated ministry to school children, boys and girls.

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Those meetings were held in some of the homes near the Biola downtown buildings. The program, of course, developed into what's now known as Child Evangelism Fellowship an organization with an extremely effective impact, serving Christ all across North America as well as throughout many countries of the world. Since the Depression has crippled the hopes and aspirations of thousands of people Dr. Rood addressed the need for extending the boundaries of Biola. It was a unique program which would allow many more young people to learn teaching from God's word. This was the concept behind launching extensive correspondence courses.

[00:05:17.62]

After seeing the school reach a more solid footing both financially as well as spiritually in 1939, Dr. Rood accepted the challenge of new and growing opportunities for service.

[00:05:26.98]

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As we'll hear further Dr. Rood's life was clearly focused on evangelism, using every available means to proclaim the gospel to people throughout the world. It was at this point in his life that Dr. Rood joined WCFA World Christian Fundamentalists Association. He was well aware of the impact since several decades earlier it was Lyman Stewart who with Dr. R.A. Torrey had published the historic five volume set of the Fundamentals. These were widely and freely distributed throughout the world as a definitive biblical apologetic on what we believe and why these doctrines are so essentially vital to our faith.

[00:06:03.34]

It was in 1955 that I as host for the Biola hour had the distinct opportunity of meeting Dr. Rood for the very first time. The experience still stands out as a unique high point in my young spiritual journey with the Lord. Dr. Rood had suffered debilitating strokes leaving him paralyzed and unable to speak. His lovely wife Neva graciously hosted our time of fellowship together. I'd ask questions to which Dr. Rood responded by writing notes on a pad of paper.

[00:06:29.69]

These were later edited for broadcast production. I recall joining him in his book-lined study noting on the wall behind him an autographed picture of Billy Graham with the inscription, "To my father in the Lord with Thanksgiving for your friendship. Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt show me the path of life; in your presence is full of joy."

[00:06:50.66]

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Well to a 28 year old at that point I had no idea Dr. Rood age. Now looking back I realize that encounter took place when he was 66, five years younger than I am today and it only serves to remind me of the frailty of our days and an even greater desire to ask, as with Moses of old, "Lord, teach me to number my days that I may apply my heart unto wisdom.

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Like Dr. Rood, I want to be able to come to the end of my journey with the Lord not ashamed of some defection or defeat. So my daily prayer is Lord help me to end well. It was 1956 when God called Dr. Rood home and as Clyde Cook has just had reference, we prepared a special program at that time to air on our network of stations and they have found this tape and I believe we're going to play a five minute segment that I think you'll enjoy the voice of Louis Talbot and Dr. Billy Graham.

[00:07:52.48] - Recording Narrator

Bible Institute of Los Angeles itself was privileged to share in the ministry of the saints of God in 1935 to 1938 Dr. Rood was Biola's president. During that time he worked in close association with Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Now Chancellor of the Bible Institute.

[00:08:06.20] - Louis Talbot - Recorded

He and I were associated together in the Biola Institute of Los Angeles for a number of years. Being in the same building that I had the opportunity of knowing him intimately. Dr. Rood was a man of God. He was a great preacher, but the thing that he [inaudible] all those who knew him

was that he lived what he preached. I think that was the thing that gave power to the messages that he delivered all over this world.

[00:08:42.00]

Dr. Rood was a man of prayer and God honored him to the salvation of many souls.

[00:08:48.73]

When Paul Rood left this world he did not go into the presence of the Lord empty-handed but there are many at the shore of the beautiful gate whom he had helped and blessed and led to the Lord and they are there at the Beautiful gate I am sure, to welcome him into everlasting habitation.

[00:09:14.67] - Recording Narrator

There is no doubt that at the great evangelistic campaigns held today had had their foundation established by Dr. Paul W. Rood. And what a solid foundation it has been. Understandably so, for it was built solely upon the Lord Jesus Christ. The life of Dr. Billy Graham was influenced for the Lord by brother Rood. Mr. Graham, how did this come about?

[00:09:36.01] - Dr. Billy Graham - Recorded

I shall never forget the first time that I ever met him. It was in a small Tabernacle in Tampa Florida. I went up to him and told him how much his address had meant to me. He put his arm around me at that moment and prayed for me. I seriously doubt that he ever knew the tremendous impact that one prayer made on my life. Dr. Paul Rood was a man of passion. He never preached

without a passion for the souls of men for whom he was preaching. He preached vigour and fire and [inaudible] of the Holy Spirit. He was a man of conviction.

[00:10:10.36]

He was a man that stood by principle. He was a man of love. I do not think I ever met a Christian that loved more than Dr. Paul Rood.

[00:10:19.36]

His face was radiant with love for all that he met. And when you met him, you immediately knew that here was a man that exemplified what Paul was writing in first Corinthians 13. Dr. Paul Rood's work lives on today. It lives on in evangelical circles. He helped lead fundamentalism when it looked as though the tide was going against us for so many years. He was one of the stalwart men that stood up for the gospel of Christ and the authority of the scriptures, in an age of skepticism and unbelief.

[00:10:53.53]

His work also lived on in the tremendous contribution that he made to Biola, the great Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Yes, we salute Paul Rood, who is certainly with our Lord Jesus Christ at this moment awaiting that day of resurrection, when the body and spirit shall be reunited.

[00:11:12.69] - Recording Narrator

And so today's Thanksgiving story but it's not yet complete, for not only did Dr. Rood establish other families in the infallible word of God... [Recording faded out]

[00:11:29.64] - Dr. Clyde Cook

That whole Broadcast is fascinating I listened to it, I'm just so blessed about that.

[00:11:37.82]

Thanks, Al. Now we're going to hear from a friend of Dr. Rood, the reverend P.W. Wilson. He is associate evangelist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and a lifelong friend of Billy Graham. They traveled to every continent together for many years. He was a personal friend of Paul Rood, who would also hold an evangelistic crusade himself. [Inaudible] ...you have a busy schedule but thanks so much for being with us.

[00:11:59.58]

[Applause]

[00:12:03.62] - P.W. Wilson

I didn't know that Billy was going to be on the program today because last night when we had dinner together, he didn't know it either.

[00:12:15.53]

But I was glad to hear those remarks. Billy has always thought and revered a lot about Dr. Rood, but I guess they were looking for somebody old enough to talk about knowing Dr. Rood. That's why he chose me.

[00:12:33.09]

I told them a few minutes ago when Don and I were talking that Billy said to me recently he said, "You know I don't know how much longer I can keep this kind of work going." And I said, "Billy, you know the difference between you and me? You're 79 years old. I'm 79 years young." And you know what he said? "Man if I didn't have any more to do than you do I'd feel young too."

[00:13:01.73]

I think it's kind of unique that Dr. Rood he went to a Baptist Church. It was a united area wide crusade and there was a Congregational preacher that gave the sermon. He responded to the invitation and there was a Methodist that counselled him and led him to Christ. And then his first sermon was in the Salvation Army. And as you already heard afterwards, after he graduated from North Park College he became pastor of the Mission Covenant Church in South Chicago.

[00:13:44.21]

Well if anybody asked me an example of a real interdenominational man, it was Dr. Paul Rood.

[00:13:53.15]

I'd kinda like for you to think with me just a minute about two Pauls and I've been thinking for several days about this. My favorite Bible Character is the apostle Paul. I could give you a number of reasons why. I believe that there's a great similarity between the apostle Paul in his day and the twentieth century Paul Rood. Paul the Apostle was a brilliant man as we know. He had gone to the University of Tarsus, the University of Jerusalem. He was a brilliant man.

[00:14:33.26]

And I have been told that there are some law schools that have required their future lawyers to memorize the Book of Romans. Why? Not for any spiritual content, but for the example of logic. We have this, we have that therefore, now then, therefore. What a brilliant man Paul was, but when his troubles began is when he fell in love with Jesus Christ. Now think of Dr. Rood. He too was a brilliant man. You've already heard he was a successful pastor. He was a great editor. He was a great founder of evangelical things and when I was a student in college down south, Dr. Rood was there.

[00:15:29.83]

He said something that I will never forget as long as I live. He said, "Crossing the ocean never makes a missionary. Going to a theological seminary never makes a preacher." He said, "Don't you tell me that God's called you to China as a missionary unless you have witnessed for Jesus Christ to the Chinese people in your community." He continued to say, "Don't you tell me that you're called to Africa as a missionary, if you haven't witnessed to share your faith with the people of that background here in your neighbor." He said, "You remember what I say and don't you ever forget." And that's something that I'll always remember.

[00:16:23.55]

Dr. Rood was a great evangelist. And Don is here and he knows the exact story that I'm going to tell you. I believe, Don, it was 1950 in Erie, Pennsylvania, your father was conducting a citywide evangelistic crusade and it became apparent that he wasn't going to be able to continue it. At that

time, I was vice president of Northwestern schools in Minneapolis. I had just gotten in from an evangelistic crusade myself. Don called and said, "T.W., Dad is not well. Would you be willing to come and finish this crusade in his behalf?" At first I was tempted to say no, because I had been going and I hate to be away from my family all the time. I said, "I'll come." But the next day we went there and out of that crusade there were four missionaries who've already gone to Spain on the team mission and retired. Now if that doesn't make you feel old... But anyway, it was a great crusade and so they voted to continue another week and it came time for them to take a love offerings for the evangelist.

[00:17:57.38]

I was an employee at that time of a school. And I said "No, we're not going to take an offer from me. I want us to take a new offering and a good offering. For a man of God that has given his life not only for schools and missions but he has given his life for evangelism and we were able to take that offering and send to Dr. Rood.

[00:18:27.40]

I am so glad that my path crossed his. I'll never be able to express what I really feel in my heart about the ministry and the life of this man of God. I have known quite a few of the presidents of this great institution and the marvelous saying that I have always known is Biola stands for the word of God, stands for the word of God and I hope that you will never be tempted to get away from the Bible being God's infallible, inerrant word.

[00:19:08.60]

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God bless the memory of this wonderful man. Don, is it alright for me to say that your beloved wife who's now in heaven, that I dated her before you did.

[00:19:25.10]

And these two preachers, they've had an effect too. I have known Don, Woodrow, and their ministers for all these years. But I just wanted to say amen to what Billy Graham said, and he had told me to give you his greetings. That shows you didn't know he was going to be on tape. But we all loved and appreciated the memory of Dr. Rood. Thank you.

[00:19:47.31]

[Applause]

[00:19:58.54] - Dr. Clyde Cook

We'll be having a response from the Rood family and I think Woodrow, if everyone wants to come on up here so I wonder if you would come on up here. Please welcome Woodrow Rood.

[00:20:06.77]

[Applause]

[00:20:22.27] - Woodrow Rood

As the oldest of the Rood children, I am privileged to respond to what has been said already in the plans for this occasion by thanking you and expressing our appreciation for the fact that you are naming this building the Paul Rood Hall. And I thank God for the memory of my father. He

was a great man. I was a student at Biola many years ago. In fact I graduated in 1937. During the time my father was president and I am a fun loving kid or was a fun loving kid and I had to watch my step and not do anything that would bring a reproach upon my father or else he should call me into his office and give me a reprimand but nevertheless it was a privilege to go to this school and to be a part of the student body and see my father in action as president.

[00:21:28.99]

And I thought he did an excellent job even though he was only here for three years. The installation service that my father's took place in was the Church of the Open door and there were some 4000 people there. Dr. Charles Trumble who was editor of the Sunday School Times was the key speaker. He gave a marvelous message. After he finished my father responded by thanking Dr. Trumble for being there and for the message that he brought to the people. The first thing that my dad did was to call for a day of prayer.

[00:22:04.63]

He was one who believed in the power of prayer and he called upon the 4000 supporters of Biola to join him in a special day of prayer and I believe that was a turning point in the difficulties through which the school was passing at that time. It was a very hard period for him, but God gave him the grace and the strength to carry on. And that leads me to say just a few words about what I believe was the secret of my father's ministry.

[00:22:41.65]

He was a great preacher to be sure. He was a real leader. He was a humble man a loving caring man. One whom God used in a tremendous way in this country as well as many of the countries of the world. There are two verses of Scripture that were very precious to my dad. Many more to be sure but these two in particular. One was Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." The other was Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches and glory by Christ Jesus."

[00:23:22.99]

And whenever my dad wrote a letter or had a letter typed he would sign his name and underneath was Philippians 4:19.

[00:23:30.70]

He believed in the marvelous grace of God and he certainly was very much interested in the ministry of prayer and I had the privilege of joining him and going to Sweden for several months in 1946. He was there on a preaching tour and he could use the Swedish language as well as the English language. And it was a treat to be with him.

[00:23:55.96]

We were together day and night and I saw more of the depth of his prayer life than I had ever seen before. It revitalized my own prayer ministry and I truly thank God for that and I believe that God used Dr Paul Rood as a prayer warrior on behalf of Biola not only when he was president but for the years that followed. He really believed in the power of Prayer and I thank

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God for the privilege of being a part of his family and as have others who are here today as part of the family.

[00:24:32.74]

We all join together in thanking you for the honor you're conferring upon my dad and I certainly think it's wonderful for you to have this celebration as a part of the 90th anniversary celebration of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and Biola University. May God bless Biola through the years that lie ahead.

[00:24:52.62]

[Applause]

[00:25:02.06]

I know we're the Biola Eagle and so we have great sight but I think that plaque is a little bit too far away. So why don't we just gravitate over there, we'll unveil the plaque, then we're going to have Dr. Bill Lockbee lead us in a hymn of praise. I think that might be the best thing but maybe we can have the Rood family can gather around that front part of it.

[00:25:28.22]

[Background/inaudible]

[00:27:46.98]

[Hymn singing: How Great Thou Art"]

[00:31:28.00] - Unknown

Thank you. It's a real honor for me to have a part of this program. [Inaudible]. We were at Biola at the same time and would have been for his dad we would have both been kicked out. That's a true story, isn't that right, Woody? His dad pleaded for us. He had said we had done some things that weren't legal at Biola at the time.

[00:31:55.04]

But anyhow it's been great joy in my past to have known Dr. Rood as a student when he was President. Later on I had the privilege of being chairman for an evangelistic crusade in [inaudible], California which is near Fresno. And in the middle of the crusade the tent burnt down. If we hadn't preach such a fiery sermons as that it wouldn't have happened. There was a tremendous response to the high school auditorium. It's been a joy and a privilege and I'm glad to have had it. Let's pray.

[00:32:31.09]

Father we thank you for this opportunity of meeting in behalf of Dr. Paul Rood. He was so faithful in witnessing for Christ around the world and started organizations that are still effective. And for being president of Biola University. Would you bless this place in such a way that even what he said in those days was so effective. So we ask Your blessing upon this and we dedicate this building to Your cause and purpose. That the students who come here to be trained and taught that You'd bless them in it and further the cause of Christ through this university and

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because of this dedication we honor Dr. Rood and appreciate the family for being here. We thank you for it and in Christ's name we pray, amen.

[00:33:21.48] - Dr. Clyde Cook

Thank you all for joining us to make this a very special occasion. Maybe we can get a picture with the Rood family around the plaque here before they go. Thanks again.