

Interview with Leonie Soubirou

By Dr. Louis T. Talbot

(Musical Introduction)

-Announcer

The Bible Institute of Los Angeles Incorporated, half century old Christian training center of the West, presents Verse by Verse with Dr. Louis T. Talbot, Biola Chancellor, and one of America's great evangelical leaders. Now, once again, your radio Bible teacher, Dr. Louis T. Talbot.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And thank you Mr. Announcer, and good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible Insitute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you and welcoming you to another broadcast of Bible study. And I welcome you, as I always do, in the wonderful name of our so incoming law. I do trust that all of you folks had a blessed day in worship and in service yesterday. Now let me remind you that this is a holiday and I would just add a word of caution to all of you who are going to be on the highway today to drive your car with care. Because, I would remind you that while every Christian has a guardian angel riding with you, I question seriously whether a guardian angel remains by your side or in your car even when one drives in excess of the speed limit. I do not want to lose any of our radio friends as a result of accidents today. I want, my friends, to thank you for all the letters and other expressions of Christian love

that you have sent to Mrs. Talbot in the Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital. It would be impossible to answer all the kind expressions and gracious assurances of your prayers. This has been a great stimulus and encouragement to my good wife, and I know that you'll be kind enough to accept these words that I speak from my heart as a personal acknowledgement of your beautiful communications. My own grateful heart can only say thank you and God bless you.

Now this morning, we have something of special interest for you to hear. You all know that the Bible Institute of Los Angeles consists of four schools. But you hear very little about the one that I think is the most important of all. It is the school of missionary medicine. A school where young men and young women that are accepted candidates for foreign missionary service, are given one year of intensive training in jungle diseases. While I was in the Belgian Congo a few years ago, I saw the value of this training because I was the guest of a number of missionaries and while we were having our breakfast, a caravan of camels arrived outside of the missionary's home. I guess there were about 20 Arabs on camelback. They came to the missionaries home on this occasion because one of their women had been bitten by a poisonous snake and another had been terribly burned and the Arab chief brought them to the missionary to ask whether he could render any help. Well it happened that the missionaries wife was a graduate of our school of Missionary Medicine and she ministered to these stricken people. I watched this with a great deal of interest and the caravan just pitched their tents and they remained there for about four days and when the chief was assured that the stricken people were on their way to recovery, he could not do enough for the missionaries, although they were Arabs, and of course Mohammedans. Among other things, the chief selected of fat sheep from his flock and gave it to the missionary

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and of course the missionary did not allow them to go on their way without having first giving to them a testimony concerning God's wonderful salvation through faith in His Son. Well, my friends, I want you to know something about this skill of missionary medicine and so I have brought to the microphone with me this morning the superintendent of this division Miss Leonie Soubirou. She is the director of this cause. Now, Miss Soubirou, we're very , very glad to have you with us this morning. I want you to give the people a word of greeting and then I want you to take an examination because I've got a whole bunch of questions to ask you in regard to this school of missionary medicine.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

It's a pleasure, Dr. Talbot, to give my personal greetings to your faithful radio audience and to express something of my joy in serving the Lord here at Biola. And, I might say, I'm willing to try to give the right answers to your examination.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

Well thank you. Now, first of all how long have you been serving the Lord here in the Biola School of Missionary Medicine?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Maybe this is the wrong kind of an answer, but since August of 1945. Actually this year begins the fifteenth year of Biola's School of Missionary Medicine and of my service in Biola.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

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Well that is wonderful. Now how did the school of Missionary Medicine come into being?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

It started as a school for graduates from Bible schools and colleges in 1945 when President Southerland established this school. Prior to this date and actually from the very first years of the Bible Institute, there has always been a strong missionary emphasis with some courses in first aid and missionary medical lectures.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

Then I had take it, my sister, the School of Missionary Medicine is now not just a course in the Bible Institute but it is a School of the Incorporation.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Yes, you're right. We are one of the four schools of the incorporation. There is of course the Bible Institute which was established in 1908. Then in 1936, three, four year courses were organized, leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Christian Education, and Bachelor of Sacred Music, all under the Institute.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And when did the school of Missionary Medicine come into be?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Talbot: Interview with Leonie Soubirou

As we first discussed, the second school of the organization was the School of Missionary Medicine and it began in 1945.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And there are two other schools.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Yes. In 1949, Biola Bible College was organized, and then in 1952, as an outgrowth of the early development of the theological training in the institute, the Talbot Theological Seminary was organized.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

Yes, and I think it was a sad day when they added my name to that school. Now I think that you have done very, very well in your history test. Now here is your Bible examination. What Bible is taught in these four schools.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

I wonder if I may be an improper student, Dr. Talbot, and go back before answering this and say that it was with a great deal of joy and rejoicing, not only among the faculty of the incorporation of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, but among the many praying friends, alumni throughout the world, and also our own constituency, those who pray for us, great joy was ours when we knew that the Theological Seminary was named after Louis T. Talbot, our beloved Chancellor. Now may I answer your question. You have asked what Bible is taught in the schools. Actually a

great deal of Bible is taught, even as our name implies. This is the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and our emphasis is not only the teaching of Bible, but the putting into practice what the Bible teaches.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And what do you mean by that?

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

Well I mean, first of all, that Bible ranks high in requirement in all of Biola's schools. In the college, no matter what your major, you must take 30 hours of Bible and ten hours of Doctrine. And by hours I mean semester hours, or units of work. Now since the average semester load is 16 hours, this would mean that three whole semesters of the college course would be spent in taking solid Bible courses. And of course in the seminary, all of the courses are Bible or Bible related graduate material.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And what about the School of Missionary Medicine in regard to these things?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Well, even though our students come to us as graduates of Bible colleges and institutes, they too must take a course in Bible. They attend daily Chapel and they participate in Christian service appointments.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

Well, it certainly does my heart good to be reminded of something that I already knew. Because we do teach the Bible at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles in all of our four schools. And I've said to you in a former broadcast that our desire here is to give to young men and to young women the very best training possible to fit them for service in the kind of the world in which we're living. Now, Miss Soubirou, you have certainly passed the Bible test all right. Now, what about the School of Missionary Medicine. What really is taught in that school, and who teaches in the school, and what students come to this school, and where do they go after they finish their work?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Well now, Dr. Talbot, which test is next? Do you want me to answer about the school or the faculty and staff or the students or the mission field?

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

Well I think that we will have time for the school and the staff today. First let us take the school. What is taught in the Biola School of Missionary Medicine.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

That really is an easy one for me and I hope I pass it. You see, I have the privilege of working on the teaching syllabus. We teach missionary medicine from three points of emphasis. Nursing, Dentistry, and Dispensary.

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- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And do you train graduate nurses here?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Yes, we train graduate nurses in the technical phase of nursing, which is recognized by the state of California. Our graduates may take the state board examination and obtain the license in vocational nursing. They then have the credential LVN, Licensed Vocational Nurse.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And do they train in the hospitals?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Yes. They have 1000 hours of supervised training in the hospital. In addition to this, they also have 700 hours of laboratory and classroom instruction.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And what hospitals do they train in?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

They train in the American Hospital, the Shriners Hospital for crippled children, the Los Angeles Division, and the Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital. They not only do bedside nursing, but also are trained in technical skills in every medical, surgical, obstetrical, orthopedic, pediatric, and geriatric area of service.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And what do they do when they finish their training?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Well, Dr. Talbot, that's a story in itself. But briefly, they go to the mission field. Our record today is that over 90 percent of all our graduates have gone to the foreign mission field. The 10 percent that have not gone are in further preparation or have been hindered for some definite reason and have found an area of service at home. Two of these people are now serving on our school staff and we do not feel that the training was in vain.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And I have another question, Miss Soubirou, how can you learn so much in just one year?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

That's a hard question to answer, but actually, the course is carefully planned for concentration and acceleration. We are training a more mature student than the high school graduate that usually enters nurse's training. We are training young men and women who are highly motivated, who know that God has called them, and they are willing to give themselves to the task.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And I understand that you started school for this semester already, and that you are even having classes today. Is that so?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Yes, Dr. Talbot. Actually, I've just come down from our chapel, and I told the students that if they get over this first hurdle of having to attend school before other student groups do, and then of having to attend on a legal holiday, that they've won a real victory. Our classes actually began here in Biola Downtown location last week. Our students take a 12 month training in 11 months with a terminal vacation at the end of the school year instead of having legal holidays through the year. Now since our course is state accredited, it is essential that we begin our program eight weeks prior to hospital affiliation. And since hospital affiliation begins the first week of November you'll see we had to begin this last week.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And who does this concentrated and accelerated teaching?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

We have on our faculty twelve medical doctors, four registered nurses, ten doctors of dental science, and five educators. We use teaching aids and we use all of the United States government medical training films that are appropriate, plus our Kodachrome slides, teaching models and mannequins, and any other visual equipment available. We have a good and growing library and access to the Los Angeles County Medical Association Library. We correlate the lectures of the doctors with the laboratory and clinical demonstrations and practice led by the nurses in our school laboratories as well as on the wards of the hospital.

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- Dr. Louis T Talbot

Now, my sister, I think that you have passed another test. And thank you for the answers on your school and staff. That is, our School of Missionary Medicine. Now in concluding today, and by the way, my sister, that if we have a little time, I want you to just give a little testimony in regard to how you came to know the Lord Jesus, and then if there is some time left I think I'll tell them something about my wild background and how the Lord ran me down and brought me to the end of my teller.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

But including today, as far as this conversation concerning the School of Missionary Medicine is concerned, how many students have graduated over the fourteen years of teaching? I'm sure that that would be a question that would be on the minds of our listeners this morning.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

There have been exactly 377 graduates to date.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And I guess that those graduates are in all parts of the world today.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Yes, they're serving the Lord on the five continents of the world.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

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Now, how many students have come to the School of Missionary Medicine for this year.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

In the two classes that are currently registered, we have 28 students.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And would you say that this is a small class or one that's average?

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

I'd rather like to avoid answering that, but may I even say that this is an average number. But due to the College, Institute, and Seminaries having moved from the downtown location out to the La Mirada campus, we could make room for about 12 more students.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And, Ms. Soubirou, when the school moves to La Mirada in a few weeks, that I understand that the School of Missionary Medicine is going to remain here at the home base at the corner of 6 and Hope Street. And I know the reason for that, but I'd like you to tell the radio friends why we are not moving to La Mirada.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

In 1954, when the board of directors met to discuss the plans for the campus at La Mirada, the School of Missionary Medicine faculty and administration was brought into the conversation and into the council and we felt that it would not be possible for us to occupy the affiliation in

hospitals in that new and growing community of La Mirada for approximately 10 years. This was an estimate, and up to today, we believe that we are still within several years of being right. As some of you folks know, La Mirada is out in the Whittier area. And just last year a new hospital, the Presbyterian Community Hospital of 100 beds, was opened, and there are other small hospitals in the area. But our affiliation in hospitals requires a larger hospital due to the accreditation of the state board and other requirements placed on us. And we feel that since we have all that we need in Los Angeles and are able to continue to occupy the downtown buildings, that there is no immediate emergency or need for us to move. So, actually, our plans are to remain here for at least four or five years, as the Lord leads in the years ahead.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

I guess that is also due to the fact that we are in close proximity to the hospitals where they labor. And also, we do this for the convenience of the doctors that serve on our staff.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Yes, that's the combination of reason. Primarily, the hospital affiliation is here, and secondarily, the facilities are adequate, particularly since we now are able to spread out a bit in the school building and occupy all the area of space that's needed.

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And I want to say, my friends in radio land, if I am addressing young men and young women who are planning to go to the foreign field, just let me extend an invitation to anyone listening to me today, that it is not too late to enroll in this year's class. If you are going to be a pioneer

missionary, then you need missionary medicine. You need the course of training that we give here in regard to jungle diseases, because you know, my friends, that the apostle Paul says, in regard to his desire to win people to Christ, that he chose every means possible. He says, "...by all means, save some...". And I do not know a better way to reach people that live in the jungles on either side of the banks of the Amazon, people that are in the grip of all kinds of diseases, I do not know a better way of reaching those people than, first of all, ministering to the body. That is, to go into a place where there are Indians and it may be that they, when you enter into the tribe, you find a bunch of youngsters or newly born babies that are on their way to the grave if something isn't done for them. And of course, all that they know is the things that belong to magic. And the missionary goes in there and ministers to the body of a little child or to a dying mother. Or it may be a mother in childbirth, and you know that as a result of a tender, loving ministry of that kind, many, many a human heart and a human mind has been open to the missionaries message to hear about Christ and about a disease that is worse than any disease that we know that attaches itself to the body. And that is the disease of sin. And many of these folks, when they have been ministered unto in this way, that they of their hearts and minds open and their prejudices gone. And so I want to say that if any of you listening to me this morning are planning to go to the foreign field, you could not invest a year of time more profitably by just spending it here in the School of Missionary Medicine. If you're going to be a pioneer missionary, my friends, then you need our missionary training. You address your letter of interest and application papers today to the Biola School of Missionary Medicine, 558 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, 17, California. And remember too, that we train the missionaries on furlough, and young people who are preparing to go out as missionaries. We train men, we train women, we train in nursing, in dentistry, and in dispensary work. And not only that, but we also

give you as thorough a training in the Word of God as one can get in the years you spend here. I want to thank Miss Soubirou. We shall look forward to tomorrow because, my dear friends, tomorrow, we're going to have this sister with us. We are going to have testimonies from young men and young women who are a part of the Missionary School of Medicine. They will tell us something about their background and how they came to know the Lord, the schools from which they have graduated, and then the places to which they go, as the Spirit of God leads them. Now if any young people, any young person is interested in taking this training, you get your letter in the mail today and address it to the Bible Institute of Los Angeles., Los Angeles, 17, California. Now, Miss Soubirou, we have another five minutes at our disposal and with this voice of mine I sound like a Louisiana bull-frog and so I think that you'd spend your time more profitably. I was wondering by the way whether I could get over this physical infirmity by coming up to the to the dispensary at the close of this broadcast. But however, I would like that you should tell our friends in radio land how that the Spirit of God brought you to a saving knowledge of Christ. Because I think that your testimony is about as interesting as any that I've ever heard. All right.

- Miss Leonie Soubirou

Well, Dr. Talbot, you're most gracious in giving this extra time. Don't know about that Louisiana bull-frog voice, but I think that since my specialty is public health I would say that the way to have to treat that best would be to have prevented it. So possibly we can get together after the broadcast and take you up to our infirmary and see what we can do. This is an extemporaneous testimony but I'm sure that your kind friends will be patient with me and I will endeavor to share with them as the Lord lays it on my heart. I have always liked as my verse "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct path." This was not always my verse, so possibly I've said

it wrong. And I ought to go back and say that my name is Leonie Soubirou. I was born into a Catholic Protestant family. My father Alfon Soubirou was born in the Lourdes in southern France of a very religious Catholic family. He began his early training as a priest and was preparing to enter the appropriate monastery in France when he himself was convicted on some of the teachings of the church and then felt led to disagree with his family and to not continue his training to become a priest. It was a great sorrow to his family. So great, that he finally felt it was necessary to leave France, actually, and to come away to the United States where he had a brother who had encouraged his coming. He came to this country and met my mother who was a British extraction and of a Protestant background and they two were married. So in my early years I was brought up to attend the Catholic Church in the morning, early, and a Protestant church later. I have one sister and two brothers. As children we were not allowed to make a decision on the matter of our faith until we were older. So we continued to attend both Catholic and Protestant churches. When I was in high school as a junior I was running for a self-government presidency office and advised that I should visit every club organized in the high school in order that I might get votes for the office. And it was on this basis that I came to a Uodua club meeting. The teacher of this club was Miss Emily J Alexander, one of the dear Bible women who, through the years, has been faithful in opening the word to girls in high school clubs and the result was that I was invited to meeting after meeting and my father then bought a Catholic Bible and the two of us studied the questions together and I was intellectually persuaded that the word of God was right and that the way of salvation had been presented to me and at a Uodua conference I accepted the Lord. Later I came to Biola under a scholarship plan and while at Biola I was actually brought to a saving knowledge of the Lord not only intellectually but volitionally. And so after Biola it wasn't unusual that I should go on and prepare for missionary

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service which I did. Years at UCLA, then nurse's training and then Albany college. After that, I accepted of the China Inland Mission, and I prepared to sail in 1938. But war conditions with Japan prevented. I remained then in missionary training program at Monta Loma school of the Bible. After that, through scholarships, I was able to go on with my studies at the University of Oregon medical school, then back at New York University, and finally winding up by coming back home to Biola in response to Dr. Sutherlands invitation to begin the School of Missionary Medicine. If I were to briefly summarize this I might say that truly it has been true of the word that as I have acknowledged the Lord, he has directed my path. And this is my verse, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path."

- Dr. Louis T Talbot

And thank you very, very much. And my friends, you have listened to the testimony of Miss Soubirou, who is the director of the School of Missionary Medicine. And tomorrow we're going to have her again. Some of the students will be here to give their testimony and tell you something about how the Lord has lead them. Thank you both listening and good bye and God abundantly bless you all.

-Announcer

You've been listening to your radio Bible teacher, Dr. Louis Talbott, Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles Inc. Address all mail to Dr. Louis. Talbot, 558 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, 17, California.

(Musical Outro)

