

Biola's 90th Birthday Celebration

By Clyde Cook and J. Richard Chase

[0:00-7:46, Orchestral Music – Gustav Holst, The Planets – Jupiter]

[7:47-11:54, song: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; choral arrangement]

Speaker 1:

We join now to sing of God's faithfulness; Great is Thy Faithfulness, Oh God, my Father.

Let's stand together as we sing.

[12:20-16:07, song: Great is Thy Faithfulness]

Speaker 1:

Please be seated.

[Silence 16:08-16:53]

Speaker 2:

Dr. Gordon Cook--Hooker and his wife Dr. Martha Hooker faithfully serve Christ here at Biola University. For decades. He and the music department and she and Christian education. He also served Christ as a humble servant at the Church of the Open Door for many years as pianist

and carillonneur. As carillonneur, he rang the bells which now are the center of campus and in the summertime they devoted themselves to reaching children for Christ in a special service mission on the beach. When Gordon Hooker showed me many of his songs, Breath of Calvary is the one I chose to learn first. It's a simple prayer; a prayer that even as the rains have saturated the earth in the past few days, the Spirit of God, His presence would saturate would permeate every moment of our lives.

[18:00-20:10, song: Breath of Calvary]

[20:23-25:30, orchestral songs with soloists followed by applause]

Dr. Clyde Cook:

It's an honor for me to welcome everyone to the ninetieth birthday celebration for Biola University. We have a number of people who've come some distance to be with us today and we're so grateful for their presence. I'd like to introduce some of them now we have the Emeritus faculty, those have laid a strong foundation for us and so with all the Emeritus faculty please stand so we can greet you.

[26:06-26:22, Applause]

Al and Margaret Sanders had come from Oregon to be with us, and I thank them for their presence. Our bell tower is dedicated to both Al Sanders and former Biola President, Sam Sutherland. Al and Margaret attended Biola and actively involved in radio ministry until graduating in 1949. Al returned to serve as dean of students and later vice president of public

relations. There he was instrumental in the success of the Biola Hour radio broadcasts. He is the founder and chairman of Ambassador Advertising, has an incredible career in radio advertising, radio broadcasting. He was inducted into the National Religious Broadcasters Hall of Fame last year. Margaret is an accomplished organist and was the organist at the Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton for many years. So, Al and Margaret, so glad you're here, would you please stand.

[Applause 27:10-27:20]

I'm also pleased to have Phil and Joanne Sutherland with us. Phil is a son of Sam and Eleanor Sutherland, and he taught here for many years, and was my roommate my freshman year. He has since become a clinical psychologist. And I've never been the same. Bill and Joanne thank you for coming, would you please stand.

[27:46-27:53, Applause]

Then also with us are Woodrow and Leona Rood, and Don Rood. Woodrow and Don are the sons of Biola's, third president Paul Rood and Woodrow graduate from Bible in 1937. So thank you so much Woodrow, Leona, and Don for joining us. Would you please stand.

[28:10-28:17, Applause]

We also have descendants of Biola's founders Lyman Stewart and T.C. Horton. Carol Hawkins, a current gold student is the great granddaughter of William Stewart, who is Lyman's younger brother. Carol, would you please stand.

[28:30-28:37, Applause]

Marjorie Crider is the great granddaughter of T.C. Horton. Marjorie would you please stand.

[28:40-28:49, Applause]

And finally I'd like to introduce a very special couple, Richard and Mary Chase. Dr. Chase served as President of Biola from 1970 to 1982, after which he served as president of Wheaton College until his retirement in 1993. Wheaton had a national search for two years to fill that prestigious position. One of the two top Christian colleges in the United States, and--

[Audience laughter]

--they came to the Biola to pick their president. And so we're thankful for this long career as president that he's had both here and at Wheaton. Dr. Chase graduated from Biola in 1951 as the youngest ever graduate of the Bible Institute. He was also ordained that year, and went on to study at Pepperdine and finally at Cornell University, where he received a Ph.D. He turned down a full time faculty position in Cornell to return to Biola and head up a speech department. After becoming the head of the Speech Department, he was appointed as chairman of the humanities

division. In 1964, he took several weeks off to travel to the Philippines where Annabelle and I were missionaries to be involved in basketball evangelism. He returned and was named Academic Vice President and a few years later became the youngest man ever to serve as Biola's president. As President Dr. Chase led Biola through a period of tremendous growth. And several notable accomplishments were achieved, including the acquisition of Rosemead School of Psychology, and the change of the college to the university status. He's also been selected as one of the most hundred effective presidents of college and university in the United States, and that includes all the colleges and universities, not just Christian ones. Dick and Mary, we just appreciate your long service to Biola, and so glad that you're here with us today, and I'd like to have you come and share some reflections on your time. Let's greet Dr. J. Richard Chase.

Dr. J. Richard Chase:

I bring you greetings from Wheaton College, and I say that in all sincerity because they know an awful lot about Biola. My first few years, when I was president of Wheaton, every time I spoke I kept telling them that it was good to be here at this new place and I referred to it as Biola. So I kept mixing the names up, constantly. And so I may do that this morning in the brief comments that I have to share with you. But there are many graduates and friends of Biola back at Wheaton, and they and the administration and board send greetings to Biola on their 90th anniversary.

I'm so thankful for the privilege of having attended Biola as a student starting back in the nineteen--I guess 1947. And some 50 years later I'm back here to say thank you, Biola, for all that you meant to me. And when I add up the years of service as a faculty member, and teacher, and administrator, and even coached basketball one year, and a few other things. Biola has had a

powerful impact upon my life and I want to thank the Lord for the privilege I had of attending; coming when I really didn't know an awful lot about what the Lord had for me. I really didn't know much about what it meant to really walk with the Lord, even though I came from a Christian home.

Let me share just one illustration that will bear that out. When I became president my office was in Marshburn. And the Soubirou Hall hadn't been erected yet when I was on my way down to chapel, and I walked through that lot, and I saw a fellow get out of a car and I looked at him for a moment and I said "Herb Domingos is that you?" And he said "Yeah." And he looked at me and he says "Dick Chase, is that you?" and I said "yeah." Herb and I went to high school together. I won't tell you the things that Herb and I did, but I said "Herb, why in the world are you here?" And he says "I'm speaking in chapel," and I just come back from a trip, and I didn't know who had been lined up I think it was a missions conference, and I found out that he was involved in a ministry with the Baptist churches in this part of the country as well as into the south, other of the states in the southwestern part of the United States and he was sharing. But he looked at me and he says "I know why I'm here, but why in the world are you here?" Which gives you some idea of what went on. Herb and I, and a few others, set some unusual academic records at Oxnard Union High School. My highest grade, I think, was in typing where I pulled a D during my sophomore year. But at any rate, I said "I'm the president." and he says "I can't believe it." And I looked at him. Of course I said "I can't believe it either." That's what the Lord does when He grabs hold of your life. That's what the Lord does when He gives you a purpose and a foundation to stand on.

Have to pause for a moment. There are so many older people that are with the Lord, some even older, they're still with us. Including myself and others I guess. But it's been a very

wonderful, but emotional experience. But I wanted to say thank you and to point out that what I learned at Biola, not only as a student, but also in working with the faculty and being educated by the faculty. And a few of them are here that had a profound influence on me even when I was a student and then beyond that. I see how the Lord has used the relationships and administration and through other Christian colleagues--and Clyde would be one of key individuals has had an influence on my life. He was a student of mine and yet, in a sense I've been a student of his. And so these have had a profound impact on my life. And I think in two significant ways; it gave me a foundation.

When I came out of high school, and for a very brief time went to a Christian high school, I was a junior then in high school but they put me in the freshman Bible class because they said there's nothing lower. And then I came to Biola, still struggling. How do you, how do you live life? How do you find goals? How do you find objectives? What do you do with your life? And it was in all of that atmosphere that I began to realize that there is a foundation that is in Christ, and when you have that foundation of faith and you have a place to stand, you can move the earth, as it were. When you have a place to stand in a relationship with the Lord, you begin to see that there are decisions that can be made and later, as decisions began to be made in my life--not always the best decisions and still asking forgiveness for so many things--but I began to realize that the foundation that Biola gave me enabled me to say: I've got to bring to this particular decision that I must make in my life as a young person and even later as an administrator.

Some of the things out of Philippians chapter 4 verse 8. Is this really true? Does this, is this going to reveal a measure of purity in my life? Because I've asked forgiveness and want to walk with the Lord. Is this going to produce that which will bring honor and glory to the cause of

Christ's Ministry here on Earth? I was taught, too, to reflect carefully upon a favorite passage of mine in Galatians, the 5th chapter, where it talks about the fruit of the spirit and I can ask: Does this really demonstrate love? And the other elements of the fruit of the spirit? And also to the end of that list is self-control. In self-control we have a power; we have all kinds of ideas and desires, but there is another power that is over that and controls it, and then uses it for the honor and glory of the Lord. And that's what Biola gave me. Not only through the classes and through the faculty, but through the relationships, the fellowships, and through chapel, and through the experiences of a lifetime.

But in addition to that, it gave me a purpose in life. What am I going to do with my life? We're told in Matthew that we're to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind. And that brings us into that sphere of understanding how it is to love the Lord and to walk with Him, but also to love your neighbor as yourself. And the neighbors are those, the whole body of Christ. And the whole world. Even those at times that we say I hate this person, or I dislike that individual. The command, as I see it, is to love them and to try to find those things in there that are lovely, always looking through the filter of my own life. That is not always as lovely as it ought to be. And so thank you Biola, and thank you professors, and thank you students, for the heritage, and thank you Jack for the music, and thank you, brother. Amen (speaking emotionally).

[38:12-38:44, Applause]

Dr. Clyde Cook:

What would we do without our wives? And Annabelle said "you didn't have Mary stand," and I said "That's right." Mary, would you please stand, because you're a great part of this of testimony.

Dick, I'm still called Chase. I mean I have people come up to me all the time, even now, after 16 years and say "How are you Dr. Chase?" I'm not making this up. I mean. You know just last month I had somebody do that, so. But you know, at first I was all irritated and then I thought, you know that's a terrific compliment. You know I'll be tall, good looking, dark, handsome. Ph.D. in classical rhetoric from Cornell, and you know Ivy League school, and president of this great school, Wheaton, and so forth. When Dick left, retired, at Wheaton I waited for them to contact me. I waited two months. I didn't hear anything. So I sent in my resume. They wrote right back and offered me a job as a cook.

My introduction to Biola was on the way to USC to talk to the head basketball coach about a four year no cut contract to play basketball with them, and my old 28 dodge we're going down the harbor freeway, and harbor freeway only went about three miles then. But you could see the Jesus Saves sign going down there from the freeway and my dad looked over the Jesus Saves sign, and he said "that is the Bible Institute of Los Angeles." And then from there to SC he told me about the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, and what to (stammers) oh, I just wasn't really interested. I was on my way to get this scholarship, meet with the head coach there. Well, my, as it worked out, my mother asked me to take my youngest sister up to Hume Lake because when I got through with SC, they said you just show up, we're gonna take care of all your expenses, they said, just not going to need anything. So I quit my job. I said I was going to surf during the summer and they'd give me a job in there at USC, besides room, board, tuition, and books, and

everything else. They gave me a job raking the leaves on Boulevard field. Boulevard field as one tree about the size of this piano, and so I quit my job.

I took my sister up to Hume Lake, and there the counselors were Jim Slevcove and Phil Sutherland. And Jim said "What are you gonna do with your summer?" I said, "I'm going to I'm going to surf." He said "why are you gonna waste your time like that?" He didn't know any about surfing, for one thing. He says "Why don't you become a counselor at a camp?" and so, I did thanks to Phil Sutherland. Jim just said "why don't you be it?" Phil arranged for the job. Got me down to Green Oak Rank, and there I met other Biola students. And I saw in their lives a richness, and a depth, and a commitment to the word of God that I did not see in my own life or in my other friends' lives, the other counselors. And during that period, God worked in my life. And just two weeks before I supposed to enter USC, I was telling Forrest Twogood that I was going to Biola. And it's been 40 years of ministry and students; as both a student, as a professor, as the athletic director, on the board, and now as the president. I just thank God for these 40 years at Annabelle and I have had together. I could just say amen to all that Dick has said about, you know, the foundation in the word of God that I received here and for the friendships. And then of course, that wonderful moment when I turned around and saw Annabelle behind me, looking at me, and marrying her, and meeting her here.

So I just thank the Lord for the years that He's given us at Biola. And you know, as we, as we, as we look back we've tried to hit some of the high points in the video that we produced and in this PowerPoint presentation this morning. It's really hard to sum up 90 years of what God has done here, starting with a vision of Lyman Stewart and T.C. Horton, they laid the groundwork. And so many faithful men and women contributed to this incredible work of God.

Those humble beginnings at the corner of Sixth and Hope; God has drawn to a Christian University and they've been 40,000 people have come through our halls and had some training here at Biola University, and out being God's salt, and God's light. Today we celebrate not only the great history and accomplishments of Biola, but more importantly God's faithfulness to us these 90 years. We've gone through some perilous times, financial uncertainty, you saw the burning of the mortgage--the place is gonna be shut down, foreclosed at ten o'clock in the morning, and Louis Talbot and others raised the money. And that mortgage was burned and they made that settlement that kept Biola from going under early on.

Our doctoral statement has not been changed since 1913. All the onslaught of theological liberalism; Biola has withstood with God's help. Key people have come to us, like R.A. Torrey, the International Evangelist and the Yale graduate. Louis Talbot, for whom the school theology is named. Charles Fuller, who served as chairman of the board, and so many others.

God used Biola to take the gospel around the world. Right after Bible was found in 1908, the founders had a heart for China. So in 1909 the Hunan Bible Institute was formed, and just thousands of Chinese were impacted and influenced through that program there in China. I got a letter from one not too long ago that had been there, and he's still preaching the gospel, and just thanks to the Lord for the training that he received there. He goes in 1937, he said, Communists took over China and so, Hunan Bible Institute was shut down. But the believing and Charles Roberts took out the original deed, so when the reparations were taken care with the Nixon negotiating with China, reopening it up, part of the settlement was that confiscated property would be repaid.

So they paid us 1949 dollars, but it was enough to help us start a school of intercultural studies in 1983. The students went out daily for outdoor meetings, sharing the Gospel and many

new ministries were established; the city, a mission, was established and a Harbor ministry that was also duplicated in San Francisco. Outreach was organized for the inmates at San Quentin State Prison. In 1922, the first religious radio program in the country was established. In addition to evangelism, scholarship has also been a hallmark of Biola's history. Lyman Stewart and his brother Milton funded the compilation of a 12 volume set called The Fundamentals, with several hundred thousand copies were distributed around the world, free of charge. These have been reprinted at least twice that I know of, the last time just a few years ago. The Bible Institute established the Biola Press, which produced publications such as The King's Business. In fact, we have a former editor of The King's Business, Norman Moore, why don't you stand, Norman, there. It's good to have you here.

[Applause]

I just met another former editor, Mildred Cook, down in San Diego and we thank the Lord for the ministry, The King's Business, for thousands of Bibles and gospel tracts and Christian books. In 1970 alone, over seven million pieces of Christian literature were printed by Biola Press. Today we continue this tradition with many great books and articles authored by our outstanding faculty. And the first graduating class of six students in 1911, to an enrollment of over 3300 today, Biola has grown but not diverted from the firm foundation of God's Word. From a Bible Institute, to a college, to a national university, we're following in our Lord's steps and the steps of our founding fathers. We just thank the Lord for His faithfulness to Biola these many years.

And now I'd like to bring out the birthday cake. As we celebrate 90 incredible years of Biola history, and it's an incredible birthday cake. So, if, hopefully, you can bring this cake out in one piece.

[47:44-48:14, Applause]

That's good. Well let's sing Happy Birthday.

[48:21-48:51, Dr. Clyde and Audience sing "Happy birthday" with emphatic cheers throughout to Biola, followed by cheers and applause]

I'm going to invite the folks that I introduced in the first row here to come on up and blow the candles out. I hope you'll be able to do it. So, come on up. I would start at the bottom.

Speaker 3:

We need all of the wind from you that we can get (Dr. Cook laughs). Anywhere?

Dr. Clyde Cook:

That's right.

[49:19-50:09 Audience cheers and applauds]

Well done. Let me just mentioned a couple of things. At 10:30 there is gonna be a historical tour of the campus and if you'd like to meet it in front of Metzger, I'll take you around the campus and point out some of the historical points of interest, and excitement, and plaques, and so forth; what they mean. So you're all welcome to do that at 10:30. And also, the celebration goes: on Keith Phillips is gonna be here tomorrow in Chapel, president of World Impact. He's the one that worked with me and Bob Thune when I was the intercultural studies admissions Prof here, taking 250 students into the inner city of Los Angeles every week to share the gospel, and he's gonna be here and talk a little bit about that. He's also gonna bring the Watts Children's Choir. If you haven't heard that, you don't want to miss that. And then on Friday, Dallas Willard, a professor of philosophy at USC is gonna be here, and he, along with the J.I. Packer and George Marsden are gonna be starting out the conference, the academic conference: University in the Next Millennium. So you won't want to miss those.

Those of you who don't care about people blowing on your cake can come up here, the rest we're gonna serve outside on the tables out there and there'll be cake and punch out there. So I'll have a word of prayer and then we'll close our time together here.

Once again, Father we come with humble hearts, and just bursting with gratitude, Father. Think of all the things that You've done here, downtown, and on this campus. We think of your servants around the world. The sun is never setting on some of the ministries of Biola graduates. While we go to bed tonight there'll be those on the other side of the world who are faithfully translating Your word, and preaching the gospel, printing and distributing tracts, and so many ministries. Thank You for what takes place here in the schools, in the hospitals and doctors' offices, and in business, and in a thousand other venues, Father, where you have reached down and equipped men and women who have come here to make an impact on the world for the Lord,

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Jesus Christ. And so we thank You for this celebration of Your faithfulness in Jesus name.

Amen.