

Biola – La Mirada Ground-Breaking

[Musical introduction]

Louis T. Talbot:

My friends for 50 years the Bible Institute of Los Angeles has been training young people to serve the Lord in all parts of this world. God has blessed this ministry and it has grown until now. The Bible Institute of Los Angeles is composed of four schools providing specialized training for various fields of Christian service.

In addition to the Bible institute training for laymen, we have Talbot Theological Seminary and a four year Bible College and a school of missionary medicine. Some 3500 people gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony marking the beginning of construction of the new buildings. Let me take you now to the new campus site and the groundbreaking ceremony which marks a great forward step in the evangelical training field.

Now we want you to be joined with us in this great effort. To prepare thousands of young people to carry the gospel of Christ into every part of this needy world.

Announcer:

La Mirada, a city of almost unbelievable growth. New houses, streets, a whole new community in eastern Los Angeles County.

And in the midst of this new city, on the twenty sixth day of May 1957, friends of Biola are gathering for the groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the new Biola campus. A need for more room and increased facilities for teaching has made necessary this move to the beautiful new site.

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People pour in to the new campus by bus and car. This is a significant day for Biola. It marks the beginning of construction of the first of the new buildings. Buildings which will provide for the training of young people for Christian service. From these grounds, thousands of graduates will go out, God willing, into many walks of life and a great impact will be made for Christ because of the Christian training to be given here.

Biola President, Dr. S. H. Sutherland opens the meeting

S. H. Sutherland:

If you can't hear me raise your hand.

Thank you very much. We're glad to have you folks. We're sorry that we haven't [inaudible] seats for all of you who are standing up. We're going to get started here just a little ahead of time because we want to get through the program and get out in time and out for you to make a little tour of the campus that we'll be explaining a little later on.

[Singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"]

I present to you dear friends, Mr. Ray Myers, Chairman of our board.

Ray Myers:

Just a few days over a year ago I stood on these very grounds and remarked to our students and friends who had assembled here for a dedication and a thanks service that it was a great occasion for the Bible Institute when we acquired this wonderful site for our new school campus. In February of next year, we will celebrate 50 years of service in the Bible Institute. 50

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years of faithful ministry by the men of God who have guarded of the destinies of this great school. Only eternity will reveal these accomplishments and that is why we who serve here can well be proud of our heritage.

We are all co-laborers in the Ministry of Training and preparing for Christian service wherever we may be called. Judging from the figures that have been given us from time to time, within a few short years there will be literally a deluge of young students, seeking entry into our colleges and schools of higher learning. So we, at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles want to be prepared and ready to train these fine young students who have dedicated their lives for Christian service. We would be held accountable, I believe, if we were not ready with proper facilities to train them, as we are now doing, and be ready to accept far greater numbers than we are now training. We're bold enough to plan on from fifteen hundred to two thousand students within a very short time.

S. H. Sutherland:

This here is a graduate of Biola and was one of the worst rascals that we had during his student days. Since that time [inaudible].

Unknown Speaker:

I'm just thankful he stopped when he did.

I would like to say that Biola means so much to me for these two most formative years of my life were spent there at Biola's Hall. It was at Biola I prayed my first real prayer. A simple prayer asking the Lord to become real to me as savior. And he very wonderfully answered that prayer. It was at Biola that I experienced the transforming power of God in one's life. If any man

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be in Christ he's a new creation. What a wonderful experience that was to feel him working in my life. It was at Biola that I had the first experience of having the Holy Spirit take the things of God and make them known to me through dedicated teachers and the guidance of the Spirit of God. Words that had always just been words that meant nothing to me: Sanctification, righteousness, justification.

Then it was at Biola that I taught my first Sunday School Class. A bunch of 12-year olds and they had everything but the Lord in their hearts. And they used to ask me questions I couldn't answer but it made me dig into God's word. I went to my first jail service. It made me realize what I'd been saved from. The glorious liberty there is in Christ Jesus.

I went out onto my first street service there of course on that street service I gave my first testimony. I was scared to death. I got up and in one sentence said what I had to say and sat down. And Dr. Sutherland wants me to do that today. I just merely got up and said to those men, "Men, you will take Christ as your savior you'll save your soul I know what I'm talking about. I've experienced it. I think I was still shaking five minutes later. But it's true. I saw men there whose hearts were hardened to the gospel. All these things happened at Biola and more and so Biola means a great deal to me.

Announcer:

Biola chancellor, Dr. Louis T. Talbot, presents Dr. Bob Schuller

Louis T. Talbot:

And the Lord just said concerning Lazarus, "Loose him and let him go!" And that's what we're gonna do here right now. Bob Schuller give him a real hand.

Bob Schuller:

Doctor Talbot says he doesn't know why I quit preaching down at Trinity but if he knew anything about a Methodist bishop he'd know why.

God grant that you may know the bigness of your job, the tremendous significance of your task and what it means to our world that is irredeemably lost unless the truths that are in this book shall be brought to the world. We're fixing up the worlds. We're trying to make it over. We're trying to make it in one world of some kind or other. Kind of a conglomeration of everything and everybody we're trying to make the church into one church. You'll never do it so long as men's minds are different. And so long as they say differently. As long as there's hard shelled Baptist and Free Methodists you'll never have one church I'll tell you that. No way to do it. Only one thing can remake the world. There's only one thing that can remake the church and the church needs remaking as much as the world. And that thing is the glorious Christ who hanged on a tree.

Announcer:

The words of Mr. Lyman Stewart spoken in 1912 at the groundbreaking of the original downtown buildings are read.

Reader:

In the name of the Bible Institute, I now take possession of this ground for the Lord's used by the act of turning this spade full of Earth. May our united prayer be that every detail of the construction of this building be accomplished in the fear of the Lord and for his glory. Let it

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be our hope and prayer, that from this place shall radiate streams of influence which will be a great blessing not only to the multitudes around us but also to the darkest places of the earth.

Announcer:

In the days following the grading continues and the actual construction work begins. The New School is to be ready for occupancy by September 1958. The need for Christian training in the world today is tremendous and the burden of training tomorrow's young people will grow heavier as the number of students increase from year to year. Will you have a part in this task? Will you pray and given that those who enter here may be fitted to go with the gospel into all the world? Pray and give that many may be prepared to go.