

Dedication of the Bells

By Dr. Clyde Cook

Speaker 1:

Dr. Sam Sutherland, would you come up here, please? Maybe you can get a hold of this pulpit. You come right over here. Dr. Sam Sutherland got a hold of that? Amen. Let's give him our warmest welcome, to Biola University.

[Applause]

Sam Sutherland:

Thank you

Speaker 1:

Take a hold of this mic, and you can, you can use this one right here.

Sam Sutherland:

Which one? Use this one?

Speaker 1:

You just use that mic. And now we have also Dr. Al Sanders with us today, Dr. Al Sanders.

[Applause]

And this is kind of a special delight to us all. And I know you're both a little bit embarrassed about it. You've been cracking jokes all morning, trying to relieve the tension that you feel in being honored on this auspicious occasion. The students are hoping that the interview will not go long. It's tough standing out there in a hot sun.

Sam Sutherland:

Well, what are we here for?

Al Sanders:

[Inaudible]

Sam Sutherland:

What are we here for?

[Laughter]

Speaker 1:

Well, what we're here for is to honor you two and to thank God for his wonderful faithfulness.

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

Sam Sutherland:

When do we eat?

Speaker 1:

What do we eat (laughs)? That's coming. Dr. Sam. But, Dr. Sam, just exactly when did you become president of this great university?

Sam Sutherland:

In 19, 1952, February.

Speaker 1:

1952. And you've enjoyed your time here, tremendously?

Sam Sutherland:

Oh, more or less.

Speaker 1:

The students are go--(laughs) the students are such a blessing to your life. Amen.

Sam Sutherland:

And that I'm, now that I'm out of here, they are a blessing.

[Laughter]

Speaker 1:

You know you, you went with me to some Biola Hour rallies and I remember you saying to a lady who came up and asked you if you knew her son.

Sam Sutherland:

Yeah.

Speaker 1:

And you couldn't remember his name. But I'll never forget your remark. She said, you said to her, "You be thankful that I didn't know your son."

[Laughter]

Sam Sutherland:

Yeah, because I knew all the bad ones.

Speaker 1:

You knew all the bad ones (laughs). Well, Dr. Sam, as you look over these years, I mean, 50 years, that's a long time in your association with Biola.

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

Sam Sutherland:

Oh, not very long. Just seems that way.

Speaker 1:

It just seemed that way (laughs).

Well, what do you consider to be the high points? What were some of the great high points of your ministry here with Biola?

Sam Sutherland:

Oo... (Pauses)

Speaker 1:

Well, could you name one, Dr. Sam that might have been a blessing to you?

[Laughter]

Sam Sutherland:

Yes, there was one, great--but I can't think what it was now. But, oh, there've been a lot of blessings. When I was dean, I was dean for ten years before I--

Speaker 1:

Ten years.

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

Sam Sutherland:

--before I got demoted to the presidency.

[Laughter]

And those were the tough years at Biola, when we were moving from a Bible institute into a Bible college, and later to college, and now to university. But it uh, there were some of the people on the board who, and some of the friends and alumni, who felt that if we raised our sights academically, we would inevitably slip spiritually. And those were, those were very, very tough days. But when I became president, I had a team. Al Sanders was vice president of public relations. Paul Schwepker, was, was, uh, vice president of the business department. And Dick Chase was vice president, academic vice president. That was a wonderful team. And we worked together for about 17 or 18 years that I was in the presidency. Those were the boys who did the work. I went along for the ride and I really enjoyed it.

Speaker 1:

Praise the Lord. Well, I know everybody here appreciates Dr. Sam Sutherland and his great influence. And one of the things he's known for all the way across the country is his stand for the word of God. And Biola's never compromised their position on that. We're gonna be stronger than ever, as we look to a world that needs Jesus Christ.

Sam Sutherland:

Amen.

Speaker 1:

And Dr. Sam from all of us in our hearts, we say thank you for the rich heritage you've given us, a wonderful example and testimony, your great sense of humor, and your commitment to the word of God. And all God's people said, amen.

[Audience: Amen]

Let's talk to Al for a moment.

[Applause]

God bless you, Sam.

Sam Sutherland:

Shall I sit down?

Speaker 1:

Do you want to sit down? Or do you want to stay up here? Yeah. You stay up here. There may be something you want to say about Al. Al Sanders. Can it be 40 years with Biola? Are you that--were you married when you were 8 or what?

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

Al Sanders:

Yes, it was somewhere around there, 8 or 10.

Speaker 1:

Now you start--

Al Sanders:

Those were the odds.

Speaker 1:

You started broadcasting as the announcer for the Biola Hour.

Al Sanders:

Actually, I started in secular radio back in 1943, and then came to Biola in 1946.

Speaker 1:

So forty five years in radio completely.

Al Sanders:

Yeah.

Speaker 1:

For the whole time, yeah. When you, you were student Biola.

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

Al Sanders:

That's correct.

Speaker 1:

And you graduated?

Al Sanders:

Yeah.

Speaker 1:

Now there's a miracle, right there.

Al Sanders:

That's true. Yeah.

Speaker 1:

Praise God.

Sam Sutherland:

Academic standings were very low.

Speaker 1:

Oh is that right? (Laughing) his academic standing was low?

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

Al Sanders:

Now, the whole standards were low in that time.

Speaker 1:

Whew, I tell you I just (the three men laugh). I don't know about this interview. Anyway. Uh, Al, you know, you've had a lot of wonderful times with Biola, both as part of the administrative team, and as a student, and as the announcer for the Biola Hour. And what are some of the things that you feel standing here, aside from being embarrassed about this whole service honoring you? But what do you feel are some of the things that have been a blessing at Biola that you look forward to in the future, as being outstanding characteristics of this school?

Al Sanders:

I think the way this school has kept, the message of Jesus Christ, very simple, David. It was my privilege, with Dr. Hooker's help, to occasionally play those chimes years and years ago.

Speaker 1:

Is there a...

Al Sanders:

And there were only a few numbers we could play, because there were only so many bells. So we took the simple things, and I remember my favorite was Just As I Am, and I was thinking about that, I guess, as I looked at those bells over there, and I'm reminded of the simplicity of the gospel; the realization that the messages to me personally, just as I am without

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come (voice cracking), I come.

Speaker 1:

Amen, praise the Lord. You know, that's one message that Biola has had through the years, the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. A lot of you are new students this year, but the whole administration and faculty, we're committed to reaching a lost and dying world for Jesus Christ. We are more aware of people needing Jesus than we have ever been in our life, and we trust that God will just take this--what you see today--two men's lives have been dedicated to the gospel and just put something into your heart, a determination to reach every possible man, woman and child you can, with the sweet news that Jesus saves. And I trust that their lives and their testimony will make a great impact on all of us. And let's say again, thank you to Dr. Sam Sutherland and Dr. Al Sanders, amen.

[Applause]

Al Sanders:

Thank you.

Sam Sutherland:

Is there food?

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

Speaker 1:

Before we wrap this little part up, we've asked Dr. Sam Sutherland to give you students, today, a charge from his heart as to what he would like to see in your lives.

Sam Sutherland:

I would just like to say this before we, I sit down. In all reality, Al Sanders was a marvelous, marvelous help here in the development of Biola. He was a voice, literally the voice of Biola, for so many years. And he developed a radio and a public relations department of the school in a marvelous way. I do not know what we could have done through these years without the help and the genius of Dr. Al Sanders. And I want to pay this public tribute to him, because he is a great fellow. And to you students: you've been handed a torch. You've been handed a torch. Our generation is pretty much done and finished. We ran the course. We fought a good fight. We kept the faith, and our job is finished in large measure, but now it's in your hands. And young people, let me say this. Hold high the banner of the cross. Stand fast upon the inerrant word of God. Preach the word, whether in, first in your life, and then in whatever way your voice has, has possibilities and opportunity, and hold true to the faith once for all, delivered unto the Saints. You're in a great institution. One of the greatest in the land, in the world. And you not only have a great responsibility, you have a great opportunity. Don't miss it. Hang in there, young people, and the Lord bless you richly.

Dr. Clyde Cook:

Amen. Thank you, Dr.

[Applause]

I see that the wind has already unveiled the plaques, so we might as well finish it off. (Pauses). These two plaques will be placed in the memorial, one dedicating it to Drs. Sutherland and Sanders, it reads, "This bell tower stands as a memorial to God's faithfulness to Biola through the combined 90 years of ministry of his loyal servants, Dr. Samuel H. Southerland and Al Sanders."

The other plaque recognizes those who made this possible. As you all probably know, student generated income goes for our operating expenses and even it that only covers 75 percent of our costs. The rest is given generously by those who care about having a Christian university that is equipping Christians to impact the world for Jesus Christ. All the facilities that you see on this beautiful campus have been given by friends of Biola. Some of them have the names of the friends that gave them, like the Rose Library, or Marshburn Hall, or Metzger, or the Lansing Hall. And so this memorial stands today because of those who cared about such a symbol of God's faithfulness, and who had a sense of history, and who recognized the importance of memorials, and that they have been instituted by God himself. These gave generously over and above their regular giving to Biola, so that we could have this bell tower. And so we honor them and thank them. This plaque reads, "These bells are part of a carillon cast especially for Biola in 1914. For nearly half a century, they rang out over downtown Los Angeles, from high above Biola's former campus at 6th and Hope Street. They were the musical partner to the landmark Jesus Saves signs, which shared the same roof. A special thanks to Irene Li, for the major funding of this project, which was given in memory of her dearly beloved husband, Fook Kong Li. Appreciation is also due, John and Irene Batchelor for their wisdom and generosity in

preserving the bells, as well as the others listed below, who, through the substantial gifts, helped make these historic symbols of God's faithfulness once again, part of Biola." We also want to acknowledge several others had an important part in this memorial: Ken Bascom, whose love for history enhanced while a student here, kept alive the vision of a bell tower Marsh Roberts and his staff who oversaw the project and had a ready for the start of the semester. Anthony O'Keefe and Steve Kuczynski of Neptune, Thomas and Associates for their design of the bell tower." And I noticed that several members of the board of trustees of Biola here and I want to thank the board of trustees and like to have all the members who are present here to stand.

[Applause]

Now, I'd like us all to stand in the act of dedication. (Pauses) the bells now hanging here in La Mirada, were for 51 years, a musical partner of the Great Jesus saves signs that summarize the original purpose of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles for the instruction and training of accredited Christian men and women in the knowledge of the word of God, and in effective service for Christ. Our purpose has not changed in these 80 years. And so, like Joshua, we raise a memorial to God's faithfulness. To paraphrase the words of Joshua, the students, staff, faculty and board came out of downtown Los Angeles and camped in La Mirada, east of Norwalk. There the president set up five bells, which had been taken from the downtown structure, the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. And he said to the people of Biola University, when future students, staff, faculty and board ask you what these bells mean, you should explain that the Lord, your God showed his faithfulness to Biola throughout those 51 years in the heart of Los Angeles, ringing out the glorious message of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ; to people like

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

Lyman Stewart, T.C. (Daddy) Horton and R.A. Torrey, he gave the vision of training men and women in the inerrant word of God and how to communicate that word. He delivered the property from foreclosure, at the last minute to the faithful efforts of Dr. Louis T. Talbot and those who gave gifts. He led us to meet the needs of the church, and each generation; from a Bible institute, to a Bible college, to a Christian college, and now to a Christian university. Thus, all the people on the earth will know how strong the hand of the Lord is, and thus they will stand in awe of the Lord, your God forever.

For God's faithfulness to Biola these 80 years, O Heavenly Father,

All:

We give you thanks.

Dr. Clyde Cook:

For committing to us the high and holy task of equipping Christians to impact the world for Jesus Christ and for the heritage you have entrusted to us.

All:

We give you thanks.

Dr. Clyde Cook:

For Dr. Al Sanders, for faithfully serving Biola for 40 years; for his impact and ministry through the Biola Hour which has touched, convicted and moved the hearts of millions to a better knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

All:

We give you thanks.

Dr. Clyde Cook:

For Dr. Samuel Sutherland; for faithfully serving Biola for 50 years, for his leadership and vision and moving Biola from downtown Los Angeles to La Mirada, in order for our school to grow and flourish,

All:

We give you thanks.

Dr. Clyde Cook:

For this bell tower and beautiful campus to be used for your service and according to your will,

All:

We give you thanks.

Dr. Clyde Cook:

In observance that all the people of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

All:

We dedicate this bell tower to the proclamation of your faithfulness to Biola, and in appreciation for the ministries of Dr. Samuel Sutherland and Dr. Al Sanders.

Dr. Clyde Cook:

To the task ahead, and in obedience to your gracious will, to the opportunities and ministries that lie immediately before us, for the sake of your name and in the devotion of our hearts,

All:

We dedicate ourselves. Amen.

Speaker 2:

It was 124 years ago this fall that a lanky, broken man stood before a group of people, surrounded by more dead than living, and made a statement that lasted about two minutes but has endured through these years. To borrow from his words, that eventful November day, "It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. Brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated this place far above our poor power to add or to detract. The world will little note or long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." I commend Biola University for taking time to honor two men, two families, who deserve every moment, and have no reason to be embarrassed. In the day of cynicism when honoring those who ought to be honored is fast leaving us as a nation, this school does the right thing. These bells are right. This dedication is fitting. May we pray?

Thank you, Father, for Doctor Al Sanders. Thank you for Dr. Samuel Sutherland. Men whose influence has shaped not only my life and my family, but thousands of young men and women who are reshaping this world for the cause of Christ. Thank you for the lasting memory that will go far beyond their years on this earth, should our Lord tarry. Thank you for the sound of the bells, as they reach across this campus and into this community, and more significantly, into our hearts. We do dedicate these sounds, and at every moment when they are sounded, may students through the years be reminded that they represent the faithfulness and diligence in the hard years. When it was not popular in the middle of a metropolis to speak for and to stand alone for Christ.

Thank you for the integrity of these men, and their wives, and their families. And thank you for this school, which we again dedicate to a greater cause than this moment. And with increased devotion, we give ourselves to the last full measure to the task of reaching a world that to this moment, still, for the most part, is not bow the knee to Christ. We do today, and with great devotion, we dedicate this hour and these bells. In the great name of Christ, our Lord and savior, and all the people, said amen.

All:

Amen

Speaker 2:

Please be seated.

Cook: Dedication of the Bells

Dr. Clyde Cook:

We're pleased to have Dr. Gordon Hooker with us today. For many years, Dr. Hooker played the bells three times a day from the rooftop of The Church of the Open Door. As we've heard, when he was on vacation, Al Sanders took over. His playing of hymns on these bells could be heard throughout downtown Los Angeles, and it is only fitting that we have now asked him to ring the bells as we dedicate this tower.

[Long Pause; Bells Ring; Applause]

Speaker 3:

We would all rise and sing this great hymn of God's faithfulness, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*.

[Band begins, all sing Great is Thy Faithfulness]

Speaker 4:

When Lyman Stewart and T.C. Horton were planning the founding of what is now Biola, they dreamed of inviting R.A. Torrey, then the headmaster of Moody Bible Institute, to come up and head the new school. He could not come at that time, which was 1908. Later they prevailed upon him to do so, and in 1912 he came, but under two conditions: one was that they build a large auditorium, and the second is that they start a church. As a result of his request, they built the building in downtown Los Angeles over which these bells reigned for years, and they started the Church of the Open Door. As a result of that, the Church of the Open Door and Biola were

experiencing a happy marriage for many years. They occupied the same house. They brought up many children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. So we at the Church of the Open Door think of these bells sort of as the wedding bells, that wed the two institutions together, and we are thrilled that they stand here to remind us of God's faithfulness. Let's pray, shall we?

Our Father, we thank you again for your grace and for your faithfulness. We thank you for the grace that planted the song within our heart: Jesus saves. We thank you for the faithfulness the Spirit of God has borne witness to our hearts over and over again. And now we thank you for these bells, for the many years of faithful service they've already had. For the many years of faithful service they will have in the future. And our prayer as we depart from this place, is that as they continue to peal, the reminder of your grace and your faithfulness, that we will be reminded to pray and to praise. And our prayer is that our lives will reflect that which falls from our lips: praise to your faithfulness and grace. In Jesus name we pray, amen.