

Courage, Endurance, Obedience

By Clyde Cook

Oh great. Good morning.

I had this incredible music program of worship lined up on a Friday afternoon. I got a call and said the person who was going to do it would not be able to be here. So I called my good backup man Ron Hafer and he and I were going to sing a duet. But I haven't been able to see him. Is he here today. Oh he's not here so I guess we'll have a word of prayer and launch right into what I think is going to be an incredible Chapel. Let's have a word of prayer. Father we thank you for your goodness to us in so many different ways. Thank you for the student body and how they exemplified in

many different ways. Obedience and courage and endurance. We pray your special blessing upon them as we finish out these last few weeks of school. Thank you for our seniors. Those who'll be moving from these halls into various areas of ministry. Some on to further education. We pray your special blessing upon them in courage and strength in them. Thank you for the contribution that they've made to my life and to the lives of fellow faculty, administrators and students. We pray your...your blessing upon them. Now Father we just commit this time to you and you've given it to us a gift of yours. We pray that your spirit might speak to all of our hearts about what you want to say to us in Jesus name Amen.

Cook – Courage, Endurance, Obedience

I'm delighted to have good friends of Anabelle and mine. Tyne and Jan Hardiman over here. Tyne and Jan why don't you stand up you got so many friends here from Faith Academy. So Tyne and Jan stand up. 33 years of impacting lives in Faith Academy and if there was ever an example of obedience and courage and endurance I think it's been the Hardimans.

Tyne Hardiman had...has a great testimony. I don't want to give his testimony because I have his back here. But in a logging accident hit by this huge log lying there 17 broken bones, back broken. A guy in a tractor with a engine going can't hear him. And getting ready to just dump more logs and dirt on him he's just pinned by this log. Just trapped there and somehow the Lord tells this guy to stop the tractor and get off of it. And go looking for Tyne. And then by the time they got in the hospital they said he would never walk again. And here he was all-American basketball tenth highest score at a tremendous school.

We appreciate and love so much Westmont College.

And then he's played. I don't know thousands and thousands of games all over Asia. Just so glad to have you here and those of you who know Tyne or anybody who wants to just meet an incredible person and his great wife who's an R.N. and wonderful mother.

Just see them afterwards.

I wanted to use my last President's Chapel this semester to refocus our thoughts on our theme and I'm glad they fixed the banner. You know that banner started to sag in the middle and I thought, well that's kind of like our experience in academe.

At the end of the year you know we kind of start sagging on things but they've...they've yanked it up again which is great so we can finish the last three weeks here. Strong with obedience and courage and endurance.

One of the ways I thought about refocusing the theme for the year would be to have faculty and students nominate you know from the student body. Those that exemplify these characteristics. So we put together a selection committee and they worked long and hard and came up with three winners here. Arlene Cole a junior interdisciplinary ICS communications major for obedience and just Arlene just got the Presidents Award for next year, great scholarship and just her wonderful contributions to our student body. Then we have Kendra Carmen a graduating senior whose major is history. She was nominee for courage and glad to have her parents here. Why don't you folks stand up here. Thank thank you for raising such an incredible young lady and the impact that she has had on our life here, the forensics team help bring back my sixth place in the nation and the terrific team we had. And basketball accomplishments and so forth. We just appreciate your ministry here. And then Susie Jones. Susie is a sociology major and she was selected to represent endurance. Kendra I'll start with you. You were selected because of the quality of courage in your life. I have somebody who's 40 years old and is unmarried because you can never get the courage to ask somebody to marry him. They know the guy is terrific looking got enough money to make somebody happy. But yes.

Thousands of girls six states and that's it.

And you hear are trying to finish up your baccalaureate and you get married and you get married to somebody who's trying to finish up his medical degree and is a pediatrician. Your husband Doug. That certainly exemplifies courage. Tell us a little bit about the courage that situation demanded.

Kendra Carmen:

I got married after my sophomore year.

Four weeks after I turned 20. And I think that marriage in general. Just saying "I do" will be perhaps one of the most courageous things I ever do in life outside of having children.

Which we're putting off for a while.

I...so in general I think marriage is...gives you this kind of permanent feeling that...that takes a lot of facing up to and is a big challenge. In addition to that as Dr. Cook mentioned my husband was finishing his third year of pediatric residency at UCLA which meant he worked anywhere from 70 to 100 hours a week. That's very tough in general especially on your first year of marriage. But I can say that marriage is by far the most demanding aspect of my life in that every day there is a constant challenge of giving a constant challenge of examining yourself being honest about your own faults and trying to come to terms with that in a relationship.

But it is by far the most rewarding thing that I have ever done.

Dr. Cook:

In tying in with that your marriage, you were put into a situation where it was kind of difficult in the internship maybe you could just share a little bit about that. Where somebody wanted you to act like you weren't married.

Kendra Carmen:

I am planning to go to law school next year and in preparation for that I did a legal internship this last summer and the lawyer that I worked with who was very generous and very helpful in many ways. At one point suggested on the way we were going to a courtroom he was going to introduce me to the district attorney and the judge and he suggested that I not wear my wedding ring and that I not mention that I was married because he felt that it was more beneficial for future favors that I might want to call upon.

If the gentleman in question did not know that I was married and I'd have to say I think that the challenges that we get concerning courage come subtly in our life.

I don't think that someone comes up to you and says Kendra lets go rob a bank and there's this challenge there that you have to face your integrity. It's the subtleness it's...it's the person that

you respect and looked up to. Turning to you in the car on the way to a courtroom and saying why don't you take your wedding band off.

I think that's those are the places where I found myself struggling with courage the most and I just told him "No."

Dr. Cook:

How about on the forensics team you're out with people that have maybe different.

Not our forensic team, but you're going to be put in situations with others that have a different value system and you know the temptation to compromise and we're just in getting up and being part of the forensics team and demands a lot of courage as well. What are some of the situations on the forensics team that drew out courage from you.

Kendra Carmen:

I think the...I think that the difficulty lies and I know we all experience this being Christians when whenever we come in contact with people in the world. Is that you want them to see the love of Jesus. You want them to recognize that you want them to know that you love them and you're interested in their lives. But at the same time there is a necessity and a desire on your own part to maintain a standard of holiness and it's in the balance of those two aspects of our walk that I think courage is needed. Specifically I think of a time after a tournament when everybody

Cook – Courage, Endurance, Obedience

was going to go out and have some drinks together. And I don't drink anyway I just haven't. My grandfather was a recovering alcoholic.

But in addition to that you know it's a matter of integrity representing Biola and they kind of made some jokes about somebody get Kendra some chocolate milk and you know a few things but just sitting around the table and saying you know I want to be you guys, it's important to interact with you but I don't drink.

Dr. Cook:

Now you're going onto law school. Is that a little bit intimidating. What kinds of courage you think you're going to have to have in law school.

Kendra Carmen:

Law schools very intimidating. From what I've talked to the lawyers that I've talked and the law students. Law School makes a very concerted effort to broaden your horizons to force you to think outside the limits. They would term them limits of your own morality of your own world view and so there's a there's a challenge right there for courage. How do I teach my mind to think and to divorce myself from an issue and think about it intellectually and at the same time be centered in my faith in who I am and what I stand for and I know it's just going to be difficult in general.

But right now that's the challenge that I see looming largest.

Dr. Cook:

When I talked about Daniel and his qualities of making him courageous one of them was his willingness to speak out against evil and when he saw something wrong you know he just didn't let it go. He spoke out about that. I think that one of the toughest things that we face today in our society is the inability to do that we just kind of will do our own thing and if somebody is doing something wrong. Just let it go. I don't know how many times you saw the Rodney King beating but I would say at least 100 times just over and over again it's just so sickening. And I think about those 17 other officers just standing around watching that.

And like you say you know I'm sure they went out on parole that night they weren't thinking they were going to take any courage to maybe particular courage along that line. But nobody did anything. I wonder as I see that scene if any of them were Christians and if one of them would do what how I ended my Daniel chapel with remember the the monk coming in there to Rome and seeing that the gladiators fight and you know I can't stand this sickening killing of of human life so he stands up and he says "In the name of Christ forbear!", "In the name of Christ forbear.", and he finally winds up there in the sand you know "In the name of Christ forbear." and they...and they kill him, but he had the courage to do that. I saw that Rodney King thing I just thought man... Why didn't somebody just stand up and say or just stop it and say hey "In the name of Christ forbear." and I I think as I think of some of the things around that we have faced around Biola well not in the same class as sickening...the mother of all beatings really that they

had there. It's that sometimes there are situations even here at Biola where we...we don't speak out. And one of them happened last December in the cafeteria. And as I thought about that I just wondered if when it happened that somebody stood up and said "In the name of Christ forbear".

And then somebody else stood up "In the name of Christ forbear", "In the name of Christ forbear". And all over the cafeteria people would stand up and say "In the name of Christ forbear." and if you don't know what I'm talking about. I'm talking about the mother of all food fights. That

happened there. So I guess that one of the reasons really. You know a lot of things have happened to me this year that could have caused no sleep but that was one of them. Because number one it was the waste of food.

Now I have I guess I'm skewed a little bit the other way because of having been in a concentration camp where we got a bowl of rice about this size and some rotten fish soup twice a day at 11 o'clock and at 5:00 o'clock.

And you know every grain of rice we ate we didn't drop a single grain because that's all we got. We had to then go out and look for pine needles. We ate pine needles and the...leaves to keep alive. And maybe that's one of the reasons I have such a problem with overweight. I can't stand to let something uh... just say no I've eaten enough I'm full. If it's on the plate man, I just think of you know concentration camp I think of my mothers talking about the starving and I have to

confess that even last night my son in law had a birthday. My wife baked this incredible German chocolate cake.

You know I kind of resisted you know for a long time with this one piece. She says I got to throw it away now and I can't believe it. This thing is going to go...this wonderful creation is going to go down the garbage disposal. So I you know get a piece of big scoop of chocolate chip ice cream to go on it

and eat that. But I've just had an aversion to wasting food and...and you know we make jokes about those, but in Ethiopia today five million people are facing starvation. In the Sudan ten million. In Somalia seven million. 22 million people might be dead in six months because of a lack of food and then a testimony too. You know we have Bon Appetit they're an outside agency. They're not all followers of Jesus Christ and I just wonder what they thought about when we acted like that or Soren Kavist. I mean here's this great Danish chef that could be making a lot more money other places but he's here kind of really giving of himself to trying to prepare the best meals he can. I mean that just...I guess you know it kind of bothered me then the the people who had to clean it up there, have families and just taking it away from them that takes away. Anyway all this to say it would've been great I think if somebody had just stood up and said "In the name of Christ forbear." And if there are other things not...that's just a small thing maybe you have a roommate that's involved in sin and you know it's going to really damage them and just have the courage to share that. So well I kind of delivered my soul on courage but it will be a great place here if we just had that courage to speak out against evil. Susie you've got an incredible story.

"Endurance." You know when I read the nomination sheet here and the obstacles that you've gone through in your life.

God had to give you grace. There is just no other explanation about it I don't see how any single individual could handle all you've handled unless God had given a special grace. Started

I guess maybe one of the big obstacles that you overcame was your mother died when you were in the sixth grade. So maybe we could start right there. Tell us about some of the obstacles that you've overcome with God's grace.

Susie Jones:

Well yeah my mom died when I was in sixth grade but before that my mom and dad had always had a real rocky marriage. My father was an alcoholic and after her death she was so ill that when they went to court they were divorced before she had died for just a year. There was a big custody battle and everything but the courts would not allow us to live with my mom because she was so physically ill she had ulcers and I believe it was a result of living with an alcoholic husband. But after she passed away my dad became very...he started getting into drugs very very heavy heavy drugs. He ended up doing heroin. Selling cocaine. Bought a couple of Harley's you know and this and. And I remember people witnessing to him I remember even people coming to our home and telling him and us about Jesus Christ and stuff.

And one night in particular I remember that he came home from the bar he would come home like 3:00 in the morning and we're like really young in sixth grade and he come home make us clean the entire house even though it was already clean and but one night he came home and he just got on his knees and started sobbing.

And started...he asked me and my brother to come and he just held us. And he he prayed and just he couldn't even hardly pray but I could tell he was praying he was sobbing so hard. He was drunk. And he was just...I remember him saying how helpless he felt and how he could not he...he knew he was an awful father he knew that he was not doing a good job raising us he didn't know what to do. But that didn't stop him it was at that point that he started even more heavy drugs.

But at...by the time I was in ninth grade my dad had gone into rehabilitation to get off drugs and he was off drugs he got off drugs. But while he was in rehabilitation we were living with like a foster family. And the first two weeks that I was away from him I had just talked to him the night before and he said that hey I've got a job coming up. I'm clean I'm doing really good and I'm going to come get you guys that we're going to find a church and we're going to start all over we're going to start fresh.

And he goes it's really exciting...and the next night I got a phone call that he had shot himself. And after that the people I was living with it was only going to be temporary until my dad you know got better. At that point they took legal custody of me and my brother and I fell out of obligation. They didn't know where else to put us. And I don't understand all the reasons why.

But my biological family they weren't there for us. And I don't know if it was the...they didn't know what to do. They thought we were troubled kids or..., I'm not sure what but we ended up staying with this family. After they got legal custody of us it got, it became very abusive. This is my freshman year in high school. But while I was living there that that year I became a Christian and I met a girl on the school bus and she invited me to church and I went and after being involved there for about six months I opened up with...with one of the interns for the high school group and her and her husband at that point. She was only 23 and he was 27. But they knew we shouldn't be in this foster home that was so abusive. They went to court and got legal custody of me and my brother knew that moving in with another family from our church. So so I knew that moving in with Marty and Jeanie and that's they've been my family. You know my church was there we have a social worker that was in our church and

he...everybody pulled together and they just took care of me in a way I had never been taken care of before in my life and I always...you know when I was young I...I took care of the house. I did everything I...like real role reversal even with my dad was very ill and really into drugs and stuff. He would ask me how to do things. He would ask me to make decisions and it was just very role reversal and I remember feeling...like all the other kids at school were nerds you know like they don't know... you know they're looking at me weird? Their parents won't let them stay the night at my house? They don't know...

you know we have...total party in my house constantly and totally having fun...

and I just I didn't realize how sickening that was. But anyway when I moved in with Jeanie and Marty I had never considered school I'd never considered going on past high school graduation to college. I just thought I was not smart enough because my concentration had never been on my schoolwork. It had always been on taking care of everything at home.

Dr. Cook:

Just surviving

Susie Jones:

Surviving. Yeah exactly. But when I moved in with Jeanie and Marty they encouraged me to go to college. And I was just a babe in Christ and I wanted to...I wanted to know the word and because my church had done so much for me and had disciplined me took care of me. I wanted to...I wanted to be able to give back to them. You know not like I feel like I had to but because I wanted to and I wanted to give back to the Lord you know I wanted to just be his instrument because I knew I thought you know Lord you can't put me through all this for for no reason you know. And I knew that he was preparing me for something that even now I feel like he's preparing me for something that is beyond my mind. Like I just don't even realize it but so I then I decided Well okay I'm gonna go to the best school. I'm gonna go to a Christian school and I'm going to go to the best one. I decided to come to Biola.

Cook – Courage, Endurance, Obedience

Dr. Cook:

Amen. I'm sure it hasn't been easy here. I thought maybe... this is an incredible story of endurance.

So maybe you can just share a little bit more about some of the struggles you had here even.

Susie Jones:

School has always been so hard for me. I mean I've worked so hard to get Bs and Cs. I totally when I get an "A" it just like...it blows my mind you know. I do know my strength lies in writing more than on exams.

I struggle with exams but one thing at Biola that I know I wouldn't have gotten at another school is

the professors you know they're just so helpful and when they knew that I was trying so hard like... I... like statistics...

Dr. Cook:

Yes. I've heard this before.

Susie Jones:

Dr. Polster was just there you know. He totally knew that I was working my hardest and he honored that and he believed in me you know and I didn't believe in myself. So... I told you I wasn't going to cry, but so sorry.

Dr. Cook:

In fact I believe you.

Susie Jones:

While I've been at Biola. There came a point where school and everything was so overwhelming. My legal guardians who I lived with in high school were having marriage problems. It broke me and I...I ended up going into counseling you know at Rosemead. And then I also started going to a support group for adult children of alcoholics.

But I do want to say I've never received an F or a D. So anyway so I started going to a support group and I've been going there for about two years.

It's at EV Free. It's called New Hope. Now I'm facilitating these groups. Now I'm...I'm leading them and I'm working with the people and...

and I just...like I said it just blows my mind how far I've come. But New Hope has been there for me and to other Christians who are who have alcoholic parents and not a perfect background.

But other than that my professors here at Biola, of the people here Jeanne Back.

She's special and just some of the other teachers so anyway I just say it's mostly the professors that have given me a lot of strength. And also I know a lot of times at least for me it took everything to be stripped away for me before I came to my knees and gave my life to the Lord.

And it doesn't have to be like that but at the same time I know that a lot of us know that when we we're weak that's when God totally gives us so much strength.

It's so true, it's so true and I always say...even now I say Lord I know I know I just need to depend on you.

But it's really hard. You know no matter how much you've been through that struggle is still there. But I'd like to encourage the students to draw strength from your resources here because they're so awesome and you're kind of depriving yourself when you don't get to know your professors and getting to know the students and not being afraid of making close relationships with them because this is a time in our lives that...I mean God has just stretched me so much here. And it's an awesome privilege to be at Biola. I know when we first met. I kind of made the comparison of... you know a lot of my friends have gone on to medical school and Yale Law School coming to Biola was like a dream come true to me and I kind of look at Biola as like

Cook – Courage, Endurance, Obedience

going to that big of a school. Like going to medical school or something although I don't know what I'm going to do I graduate.

But anyway thanks.

Dr. Cook:

I was...one of the loneliest times of my life was away at boarding school and my parents were living and loved me and supportive but just the situation had to be in a boarding school and it wasn't like Faith Academy where you had committed teachers and loving you know houseparents and stuff. This real stern South African headmaster who had a cane...I don't want to get into that one. Man, I'll tell you. He could make you a smart man and get welts and draw blood on a place of your anatomy that's used for sitting and...and for dumb stuff just leaving your blazer hanging on a hook and forgetting to pick it up at night you know and so looking out the window and seeing one blazer there knowing that he's going to come by in 10 minutes to catch the blazer that has your name in it and try to go down over the eaves and down the drain pipe and get it before he does and the consequences of stuff like that. But it was...you were kind of on your own.

That's why I learned how to fight and fact to learn some really tough stuff in fighting because you had to do to survive. When you're talking about the foster home it just must have been a really lonely and awful time until the Lord sent these Christians in your life to save you.

Susie Jones:

But it's just awesome to me how he even used that because if I'd not been living with them I would not have taken the school bus to meet Tammy was her name you know and to invite me to church. It was just incredible to see how God uses everything and I even think about if my dad was still alive would I have ever even considered going to college would've I've ever even given my life to the Lord and because my whole it was just survival just trying to get by and try to take care of him. And my brother and my brothers slow he go run over you when he was two and a half years old. So he has only half a brain and so I've always been like the mother you know the caretaker. And it's hard overcoming those dysfunctional patterns you know. But I refuse to allow that pattern to go on any longer in my life. I don't want my children. I don't want to be involved with that in my marriage. God willing some day and...

Dr. Cook:

You need to shift over to the courage seat.

Susie Jones:

I understand there's like people here even here at Biola you don't even have to come from an alcoholic family to come from a dysfunctional family you could come from a real shame based family that could cause dysfunctional patterns and stuff.

Cook – Courage, Endurance, Obedience

And I think it's so important to try to overcome that now while we're not married while we're not tied down before we're into something that we can't get out of.

Dr. Cook:

You...when the award was announced
what was your reaction?

Susie Jones:

You know it's really hard for me to accept compliments. To accept anything good about me or you know when I received it I really thought it was...they made a mistake. I thought I don't deserve this. Why am I special? I've never taken any...a lot or many leadership positions here at Biola anyway and I just thought this is wrong. This can't be me. They made a mistake. So it really blew my mind. I've never won an award in my life. I've never sat up here in Chapel with you before
either. So this is a great privilege. Thanks.

Dr. Cook:

Arlene it seems like your whole life has been an example of obedience and it's been complete and consistent in so many ways.

You really recently had a test of this obedience in the Mission's conference why don't you share that with us.

Arlene Cole:

Sharing with them and Dr. Cook earlier. For a missions conference director you think I'm going to run this conference it's going to be beautiful. God's going to move upon the hearts of the multitudes. But of course not upon mine you know you kind of think that God will do this general refreshing type of work in your life and that's pretty much what I expected and I didn't want to put any limits on what the Lord would do. But I've always wanted to go to the mission field I've wanted to be a missionary and all these kind of nice things but hadn't picked a place or a time or anything like that and thought maybe at Urbana I would get a people group and you know and a calling all kind of stuff. And I didn't you know. And you think somewhere along the lines I'm going to find this and I'm going to find out what God wants me to do. His perfect will you know write it on the wall there it is. And during the missions conference on Tuesday evening before it all began we had a prayer meeting with the missionaries which was really neat and it was this time of the student staff praying with the missionaries and there was one guy in particular that really stood out to me and he just kind of had a glow to him. So I thought I'd like to meet this man some day. So...or actually the next day. The next day was Wednesday and I saw him again and I thought oh I should meet this man. But

I thought I'm on my way to lunch. And I have a feeling this would be like a long type of conversation. So I kind of veered clear of him as I veered clear this whole big group also veered clear of him and there I was kind of on the pathway to Mr. Roberts. His name is Don Roberts. Him and his wife Marion work with Bible Couriers International they were on the upper level of the sub right by the door as you go out so it's kind of like they were inevitable that you would bump into them. So I started talking with them and he just looked in my eyes and he said I sure hope you want to be a missionary.

And I thought wow and I went Yeah I do. Like OK.

And he said Well I think he said Arlene there's a difference between God's will and God's plan and God's will is something you read in the Bible it's right there it's not mystical. God's plan is the choices that you just choose to make. And I thought wow that makes sense. And then he looked at me said Arlene I believe God wants me to help you find your plan for your life.

So I thought Oh excuse me. OK let me go to lunch come back we'll sit down for a bit. So I went to lunch and I was so excited I said this missionary talk to me about me you know.

And we went back and he just talked to me all these relevant I'm just like how do you know this. You must have like you know a line with God or something.

Just like how did you know all this stuff about my life and you just really spoke to where I was at.

And we we got through kind of the steps of if you take a step of faith God will honor that and God will see you through it. Amen. I'm there if you take the wrong step. God will stop you. I'm there too. Ok Arlene now why don't...and then he says to me he looks to me and he goes in the next 72 hours. You pick an organization and where you're going to go and what you're going to do. I said oh I said that's a little harder to swallow. So we're still talking. And I thought Well Arlene if you said yes to those other two things. Of if you step out and if you step out and it's wrong God will stop you if you're saying yes to those things and then you'll say yes to try to make a decision too. So it really kind of rung true. And I said to him I go. How about in the next 72 hours how about if I don't make a decision. How about if in the business of everything I don't sit down and I don't make this life radical decision. He said well God will see your heart and he'll know your motives. And I mean at the time of the question my motives were postponement. I don't want to make a decision. And he just really said God knows your heart. And if your heart is right that will be fine. But he needs to know that your heart was right and you wanted to be obedient to him. I'm going through Wednesday trotting along you know making details work or whatever not and I'm sitting here during the

Margaret Berger concert. All this stuff sitting here going I'm just not pleased with myself. I mean I know I like heard what God said. I heard the name Operation Mobilization all through my mind all day so I know I'm joining, I'm joining them and I thought Get that out. I've been with them already. I was there last summer. Do I want to spend my life doing that get that out. And it was just really just repeating over and over and I was kind of faced with the fact that Arlene you're not so obedient and you sing all obey and serve you and I'll do whatever you want. And in actuality you're going I'm holding out on you God and I'm not real sure are you sure about this.

And the whole thing I just really saw that the lack of faith in my life just the things that I've had faith for kind of a kind of definite it's like you go to school and you run this and you try to do this.

But to say I'll have the faith to go wherever and that wherever all of a sudden isn't just an ambiguous mission field but it's Operation Mobilization and all the unknowns that come along with giving your life to an organization.

So I was really kind of disappointed in myself looking at myself saying oh I'm not as full of faith as I thought I was and I'm not as ready to go as I thought I was and I had all these flashbacks of junior high of weeping at the altar and say OK go wherever you want me to go I'll go. And I mean in all sincerity meaning those words but when he's bringing you to it and he says OK I I would like to move you to take this step.

You say Oh are you serious about this? I know. Are you serious. And just the uncertainty that comes with that and what's that called that's called faith. And I mean God calls us to fight the good fight of faith he doesn't say fight the good fight of good works of good deeds of morality. But he says fight the good fight of faith to do to step in the unseen to see beyond sight to hear beyond what you actually hear. I mean that was just such. And just to see look at yourself in the mirror just like the Bible tells you to do and look at yourself and go I am lacking but to know also that God is stronger. And as time wore on during the conference I kind of started going I think I'm going to join Operation mobilization and now with this like hesitancy. Oh are you sure God. And on Thursday evening when we had that radical concert prayer right here with David

Bright the listening time where we just stood listening and took our orders from God. I really felt he said two things to me said Do two concerts of prayer every month. You know regardless of who comes or what happens and go with O.M. I mean was that clear it was just like go with O.M. there it is and just the fact Mr. McAllister was here. And I spent all week with him just you know being around type of thing and getting to know him and being will to talk to him about Operation Mobilization. I mean that was just a gem to be able to talk to him while he was here. And then it was

just a very radical thing. My parents were here and then on Friday night I told them this whole story about what the Roberts had said to me about wanting to go with O.M. I mean at the end of it my dad just goes this is right you do that. And my mom says God is good to give me a year just to let you go. And just the confirmation of hearing this is right you do this and it's just the neatest thing to go. I mean I still don't know where with O.M. I'll go like whether that's the base in Atlanta, Georgia or whether you know that's overseas somewhere. I don't know where that is but just the definition of I'm going to join up with O.M. and I'm going to say I want to be your servant. And one thing that was really is just all these things that kind of God brings into your life that you look at. One thing I really saw in Stuart McAllister and Marvin Cole and David Bryant all these people in these missionaries was just the idea and issue of servanthood. And I think obedience is servanthood is saying God I will be unknown. I will be little and I will do anything. One thing I said to the Roberts I was really sincerely afraid of and this is so selfish and I'll just confess it. I mean you know but I said if I join a Missions organization I'm afraid that like I'll become a nobody. Like all of a sudden you just kind of fade in fade out. No one will ever see you again. Your talents will be used all weird because you're just

washing dishes you know.

And you know and all these different things that I just had a fear about the mission field you know. And just to be able to confess that and say I'm afraid and I know that's my pride that's me saying I'm Arlene you know hear me roar you know and that's just that's my pride you know and for God just to show me through these people humility humility you know and just to go with an act of obedience saying I'll do whatever you want me to do and one concept Don Roberts brought up was to marry the ministry.

And I thought I've never heard that. He goes Arlene when you get...when or if... you get married are you going to get a divorce? I said "No." and he said the same thing with a ministry that unless God radically changes you. You stay with it and he said you marry the ministry with its failures. Because I think as Christians we look for the perfect opportunity for the perfect something and if it's not perfect it must be out of God's will and he just really emphasized that you're going to marry it with its failures you're going to marry it with its faults and you're still going to stick with it because you submit yourself to that organization and you submit yourself to that which God has called you to and that's when your real freedom comes in that submission. And just to learn that. And it's so funny to you as God has brought kind of these so to speak. Honors in my life. One thing we talked about was my pride and I said I don't want to become prideful and Don Roberts told me that God was going to heat up the fire and he was going to see if I would get prideful and he was just heat it up and I thought OK. And then last week and this week and I thought what are you doing. And I really I feel very undeserving. I feel very undeserving of any kind of recognition or anything like that. And I think guys really showing me

that when you get lifted up so to speak it really is very humbling because you just go why. And I know that Kendra and Susie feel the same

way. Why would we deserve any kind of recognition and I'm starting to read God calling and one thing. One little thing for the day when I was feeling this it said humility is not the belittling of self. As I totally blank out. Humility is not the belittling of self but the forgetting of self nay not just the forgetting of self but the remembering of me. And I really feel that something God is saying humility is not oh I'm terrible yuck yuck, but you forget I'm just me. But God he is everything and to keep looking at him and that's what causes me to obey. He's never let me down yet. I mean all through school all through the decisions made. God if you just sit there at a place and you just go God I just want to obey you. God will show you something to do and he'll bring people in your life.

And it's been a real blessing to be here at Biola.

Dr. Cook:

I was sorry to miss that missions conference I've been listening to David Bryant's faith is really incredible. It was the first missions conference I've missed since 1967 at Biola. That's because I was invited by the Japanese to do some special missionary lectures there. The opening of their new bible school and their new center while we were there Annabelle and I went down and visited our son and his wife and our two grandchildren. I hadn't met my grandson before so I got a chance to meet him. But you know there is that danger there are two people with master's

degrees from Biola and Talbot and ICS there in a little village seven thousand people. All Muslims and part of a larger one million group of Muslims and they took their foam mattress off their bed and put it on the floor. So we would have a place to sleep there and the heat was so oppressive and the first night I was there felt that old familiar feeling on my arms I reached out there and brushed it off. The next morning I saw two left legs of a cockroach in the bed and so somewhere in Mindanao there's a cockroach going around in circles.

We were right next to that right next to the mosque and the loudspeakers there at 2:00 o'clock in the morning you hear. [Dr. Cook chants an Islamic Adhan]

[Inaudible]. I got up I said is God deaf. Louder. [Dr. Cook repeats chant]. And then half hour after that they got these great lizards in the...in the Philippines called Geckos and they are ugly. I shouldn't call any of God's creatures ugly.

For my cultural perspective. They are ugly. They're about that long and they got big suckers on their feet so they can walk upside down.

Tyne knows all about them because one night on a basketball team one of these babies fell you know we sleep with little clothing as possible there because of the heat. And so you don't have any top on here

and this gecko lands right in his chest. He grabs it to pull it off and when you grab it you kind of...[inaudible] like an abalone you just...[inaudible word] near him and he's trying to pull this thing off there.

Remember that? Yeah. Anyway this how gecko sound starts up [Dr. Cook starts making Gecko sounds]. That. Loudly.

You know. But the problem was it took half an hour for the Gecko to wake up after the Imam sounded so when the Imam...[Islamic Adhan sound]

It took half hour of this so they never got coordinated so all the rest of the night is between the call of prayer and the Gecko waking up again. So but they're there and just the impact you know they're trying to learn the language and obedience. Obedience is a thing.

No other way to explain why they're there.

Arlene I want to give you on behalf. And actually I need to say this. We selected...well a selection committee selected these three but they're really here just representing the student body. You know it's not them against you you know they have been selected because of these characteristics and I'm sure there's a thousand other stories out there where you've been obedient you've been courageous and you've endured but we selected these three really to represent the student body. So it comes you know from my office exceptional Christian character in the

Cook – Courage, Endurance, Obedience

display of obedience to Arlene Cole. I have to give that to you. An exceptional interesting character in a display of courage to Kendra Carmen.

An exceptional Christian character and a display of endurance. To Suzanne Jones.

[Audio from side two of cassette]

Kendra Cole:

... we certainly you know question why we see so many amazing feats of courage and obedience and endurance on this campus. But I wanted to add to what Susie said especially coming from the history department I taught an LSAT class which is preparation for the LSAT Class you...test you have to take to get into law school.

And when they found out that I was from Biola they gave me a hard time and non Christians they said I hear the people over there they won't let you drink and they won't let you dance and they won't let you do a lot of things and they said I thought...I heard that they're very narrow minded. And I said well. The professors and the faculty at Biola University.

Are men and women of conviction. They are faithful to their spouses. And good to their children. And they hold certain convictions dear and they live by them. For a lot less money.

Cook – Courage, Endurance, Obedience

If you wish to call that narrow minded you may. We would like to think and I would like to personally thank the history department. And this school. I wouldn't have gone anywhere else.

Dr. Cook:

Let's pray. Father we just thank you for this time this morning.

Annabel and I want to thank you for the privilege of serving such a wonderful student body we pray your blessing upon each one may these characteristics of obedience and courage and endurance be so ingrained in our lives as we go out to make an impact on the world for you. We go in the name of our wonderful savior Jesus Christ amen.

Thank you so much.