

The Greatest Work in the World

By Dr. Don Hillis

Al Sanders:

(30 Second silence, followed by a crashing noise).

Beautiful Los Angeles, it's been our pleasure to bring you a special address by Dr. Don Hillis co-director of Orient Crusades and World Gospel Crusades.

Okay? (Clanging) are you rolling?

This is a special tape recording as a standby to be used in radio stations broadcasting Dr. Talbot's Bible study. Stand by please. Five seconds.

Hello their friends and our sincere Christian greetings to you. This is your Biola host Al Sanders, welcoming you to a special half hour Bible study featuring a message by Dr. Don Hillis, co-director of Orient Crusades and World Gospel Crusades. Dr. Hillis will be speaking to us today on the theme The Greatest Work in the World. Before he speaks, may we just give you an important word that today's address is in printed form, and you may have a copy--or as many copies as you can profitably use--by writing the Bible Institute Hour, Los Angeles 17, California. Just ask for the message by Dr. Don Hillis, The Greatest Work in the World, or simply ask for the Hillis message, that will suffice. Remember our mailing address: Bible Institute, Los Angeles 17, California. Let me caution you, however that we only have a very limited printing on these messages by Dr. Hillis, and so I'd suggest that you write us just as soon as possible, for when our supply is gone we'll not have another reprinting. It will have to be first come first serve. Don't be disappointed. Write for your copy of the message by Dr. Don Hillis: The Greatest Work in the World. And now it is a joy to bring him to these microphones. We know your heart will be blessed as he speaks to you. Brother Don Hillis.

Dr. Don Hillis:

Thank you Mr. Sanders, and greetings friends in the name of our wonderful Lord. When God threw the planets into space, he had no man to assist him, nor did he need man's assistance. The better acquainted we, as finite beings, become with the universes that surrounds us, the more we marvel at the wisdom and omnipotence of our great God. In his own searchable graciousness, he permits us to have a share in the sustaining of his creation. The farmer plants the seeds that mature into waving fields of golden grain. The miner digs the coal and iron that are used to run our great industries. The oil driller obtains from the bowels of the earth the petroleum that transports us around the world. Year after year, we are learning new and better methods of cooperating with God's handiwork in the progress of world conditions. This progress has come about slowly, over a period of many years. The result is that we are enjoying today luxuries in life, methods and techniques of travel, and new experiences in communication, one with another. Thus it is in God's redemptive plan.

Though our sins were responsible for the death of his son on the cross. Yet, we were not there when it happened. Not one of us had any part in his glorious victory over sin, death, and hell. It was not through your effort and mine, your goodness and mine, or even your prayers and mine, that he arose from the dead. The great redemption program was one that he alone wrought out. And yet here again, in his unsearchable wisdom, he grants to us a part. A part in that which constitutes the biggest business in the world; the business of planting the seed of the word of God in the good soil of hearts that are tender toward the gospel. The business of watering and nurturing that seed with friendship, hospitality, and intercession. The business of caring for the

tender plant until it grows into fruition, reproducing itself 30, 60, and a hundredfold. Tenderness, time, and patience are all required in this blessed process.

One does not have to look far in order to become a co-worker in this big business with God. In fact, the opportunity may be right in your home. Your sons and daughters stand before you as a God given responsibility, in the behalf of seeing that they become new creatures in Christ, and that they are led into the unspeakable privilege of doing a job for God on one of the great harvest fields of the world. This will require, upon your part, a genuine faith in the purpose of God. Just as the farmer plants the seed and the full assurance that God has created in it a life process, which will become active under proper conditions, so you must hold firmly to the fact that God has an immutable purpose that will be accomplished in the life of your child if the seed of the word is sown according to the principles of God in his heart.

You must also have an unshakable faith in the power of the Gospel. You are unable to see, hear, touch, feel, or smell the life that secretly abides in a grain of wheat. Yet, you have no doubt as to the fact that the invisible principal will break forth into visible life when it is planted. Thus, you must hold firmly to the fact that the gospel is the power of God and of salvation for your children and for those in your neighborhood.

Then too, if you are to become a laborer together with God, there is need for a firm confidence in the person of the Holy Spirit. It is his blessed work to convict of sin, righteousness, and judgment. It is his blessed work to bring one into the new birth experience, and thus make him a new creature in Christ. It is his blessed ministry to take of the things of Christ and show them unto us. Apart from him, the whole program will be manmade and doomed to failure. Your faith in the purpose of God, the power of the Gospel, and the person of the Holy Spirit, will produce eternal results in the lives of those that God has given to you as your responsibility.

When Christ said that we should go into all the world to preach the gospel to every creature, he clearly indicated that we should all have a part in this greatest work in the world. Your responsibility of course begins in that section of the world in which you find yourself. You may never have the privilege of being on any other mission field than the one in which you now are. In the light of this, may he enable you in your home or in your business to take your responsibility just as seriously as any foreign missionary takes his. If through conversation, behavior, sacrifice, prayer, and Bible study, you will plant the seed of missions in the tender hearts of the young people that surround you, yours will someday be the joy of sharing with them in the harvest that they will reap on some foreign mission field of the world. Perhaps it will be your high privilege to win the confidence of a high school lad, and then lead him to Jesus Christ. Perhaps it will be your honor to prayerfully follow him through the remainder of his high school education. Perhaps through your godly life and prayerful influence he will make the choice of attending a school such as the Bible Institute of Los Angeles in preparation for full time service for Jesus Christ. Before you are called home to glory, you may have the deep and genuine satisfaction of seeing this young person well trained at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles as a soldier of the cross, headed for the foreign mission field.

These things are happening today. The God of the impossible is calling out young people into his service around the world. But these things do not happen apart from the godly, sacrificial, and prayerful influence of men and women who love Christ, and who, hence, love the souls of men more than they love themselves. You can have no greater joy on earth than that of knowing that some young person is living for Christ and serving him, as the result of your dedication to God. My own dear father and mother would gladly bear witness today that they had no greater source of thanksgiving and the fact that they have two missionary sons who are

serving Christ. This did not take place overnight. Years of prayer and sacrifice preceded the entrance of these two sons into the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Years of prayer and sacrifice have followed these boys on the mission field.

It is yours to have a part in the greatest business of the world, God has ordained. He says we are neighbors together with him. May I encourage you, therefore, to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For as much as you know that your labor is not in vain, in the Lord. In this very month, in which many young people are making crucial decisions in relation to their future education, will you bring to bear upon these young lives your prayerful and godly influence in leading them to a decision in behalf of God's will for them? And, will you pray for the Bible Institute? That the acceptance of these students and their applications may be definitely be guided by the Lord. Perhaps this young person is one that you are sponsoring under the Biola sponsorship program. Or perhaps it is your son or daughter now in Biola, or soon to enroll for this coming school year.

Well, whoever it is, here are some of the wonderful experiences that await the student who enrolls in this school. Every Bible Institute young person is, again and again, exposed to the challenge of the major mission views of the world during the course of his training. The best of God's servants from the foreign fields present the needs of their respective countries in the chapel services. Then too, the student has the opportunity to enroll in one or more of the several fine missionary courses given by the missions department, of which you're good friend of mine, Reverend Orin Smith, is director. Such subjects as missionary's survey, missionary science, or missionary seminar can be studied. Furthermore, the graduate of the Bible instead of Los Angeles can attend the splendid Missionary School of Medicine. Then too, the student has the opportunity to enroll in other courses.

One of the most active student organizations at the Bible Institute is the student Missionary Union. The bible, Biola student is not long in school before he joins and takes an active part in this organization, which so effectively promotes the spirit of missions. During the course of his first few weeks or months, a burden of prayer for some specific mission viewed is laid upon his heart. As he rejoices. As a result he joins one of the missionary prayer bands which meet each week, and from then on he meets with a group of young people who are interested in the same field to pray definitely for the various mission boards, and for the individual missionaries who are laboring in that country. Reports from the field are read, and letters from the missionaries shared; a time of intercession follows. There is nothing that so deepens his own conviction as to the needs of the wife and harvest field as the very privilege and necessity of praying for missionaries. It is during these prayer times that the Lord of the harvest does his own wonderful work of placing the seal of his call upon the heart of the young person.

Let me suggest, by way of illustration, that it is the land of India, where there are 375 million souls, that is laid upon the heart of this particular student. With this in mind, he wisely determines to get as well acquainted with that great land as possible. He wants to know something about the people of India; their customs, manners, languages, and religions. A visit to the well stacked shelves of the Biola library amply rewards him. Along with this, a librarian suggests to him that a few biographies of some of the better known missionaries of India will enrich his life. And sure enough, before he ever set sail for that great land, he has read the life of Kerry, of Praying Hyde, of Sadhu Sundar Singh, and of Pandita Ramabai. Not to mention several books by Amy Carmichael. While in a class in missionary methods, he is advised to get acquainted with the principles and practices of various mission boards, in order that he might choose wisely the type of a board under which he would desire to go to the foreign field.

Acquiring a list of the names and addresses of the various boards that carry on work in India, he obtains literature from them. In the quiet of his own room he makes a prayerful study of each board. After months of careful consideration, he decides to make application to a particular mission.

Just by way of illustration, let me suggest that this student applies to the Evangelical Alliance Mission, which is only one of many good missions working in the land of India. Wisely enough, he puts in his application eight months or even a year before he graduates from Biola. This gives the board time to look into his references, as well as giving him time to get better acquainted with the mission. At the annual Biola and Church of the Open Door Missionary Conference, he's given opportunity to see the work of many of the finest mission boards in action. He meets and counsels with missionaries who represent the board of each choice. To his particular delight and surprise, he finds that one of the key speakers at the conference is Reverend T.J. Bach, general director emeritus of the Evangelical Alliance Mission. Much wise counselling, and prayer, and fellowship is his; is imparted to him. And now his heart burns with a desire to get to the land of God's choosing for him as soon as possible. Though graduation day is fast approaching yet, there's no frustration in his heart. On the contrary, the peace of God is reigning there. His is the serene confidence that God has chosen him and ordained him to go and bring forth fruit that will remain. He, of course, has not always been conscious of the fact that God's dealings with him were just a part in the program of the making of a missionary. In fact, he foresaw none of the process when he first enrolled in Biola. But now it all seems so plain, and how his heart rejoices. How he thanks God for the many lessons learned in the halls of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles.

Of course, graduation from Biola it does not culminate God's plan in making this young man into an effective missionary. It is but the threshold of exploits for God on the mission field. Busy months of deputation ministry, in which it is his privilege to present the challenge of India to church after church, and to congregations of sympathetic, missionary-minded, praying people follow. Through all of this his own spiritual life is enriched. As a result of his tax in the various homes in which he stays, he is given the assurance that God is raising up for him a prayer, a prayer constituency, who will stand faithfully with him at the throne of grace. God is graciously placing in his path friends with whom he can confide concerning his victories and defeats. For this, he praises God. It is wonderful to be in this which is the greatest business in the world.

His financial requirements for outfit, transportation, and support look like insurmountable mountains when he first began to consider them during his last year in Biola. He had, however, been well-taught that with God, all things are possible. Now, to his confident delight, he is finding it wonderfully true. He's not quite sure whether he's putting God to the test, or whether God is putting him to the test. But he has a feeling, and rightfully so, that it is the latter. Well the outfit is at last purchased, the passage money in hand, the inoculations, injections taken, and the visa is acquired. His last busy weeks and days in the homeland have come to a swift close. Our Biola graduate is now in a great ocean liner headed for Bombay, India. The wonder of it all almost overcomes him as he reminisces of the way in which God has worked in his life.

Surely it is God that worketh in us both the will and to do of his good pleasure. How and searchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out. Though he has three roommates with him in his stateroom, yet his heart is so full of the goodness of God in his mind so occupied with the dealings of God that he longs to spend that first night on the ocean alone with his savior. He stands for hours in a prayerful meditation out on the very proud of the boat. Though the salt air

blows sharpened his face, though the waves beat hard and loud against the side of the ship, though the clouds and moon are playing hide and seek above him, yet he sees and hears but little of it. His thoughts are with Christ, the good shepherd, who has been so true to his promise to go before his own sheep when he leads them forth. How he thanks God for being led. To a place where he could study the Word of God, and where a missionary vision was burned deep into his heart. How he thanks God for the sheer joy of belonging to Jesus Christ, and for the assurance that he who has begun a good work in him will perform it.

The days on the ship passed quickly by, but not until a goodly number of thank you notes and words of prayerful appreciation have been penned to loved ones and friends at home. Not until many on board this floating mission field from which they cannot escape have heard the Gospel. In fact, not until one of his state room companions has professed to accept Christ as his personal savior. Now, for the first time his eyes catch a glimpse of the shores of India. Bombay's skyline stands out in the distant horizon. Within two hours, his ship will be docking and he will set his feet upon India's soil. His heart quickens as he thinks of this entrance into the world's greatest work. This has all been a part of the work of God in the making of a missionary. Many and rugged are the experiences that yet await this young warrior of the cross. Like every other missionary, however, he will find Christ faithful. Christ will guide and sustain him. Christ will be his everlasting friend. Like every other missionary, he will need your continued prayers.

I want to take you into the life and the problems of the missionary on the foreign field. We are using, for example, the land of India. And let us assume that our young missionary has disembarked in the teeming Oriental city of Bombay. Actually, he's surprised to see so much evidence of Western influence in that great city. The senior missionary who has met him at the boat and helped him through customs, quickly informs him that he has not really seen India until

he gets into the villages, where he will see some 200 million farmer folk laboring with antiquated tools in their daily effort to eke out a living. The overnight train trip inland, with its tea, cigarettes and betel nut hawking vendors yelling on the station platform each time the train stops; the many new sites to see, the odors to smell, and the languages and sounds to hear, all add up to a sleepless but memorable night.

How warm is the welcome accorded to him by the missionaries and Indian Christians, who have awaited him at the mission station in which he is destined to spend his next 18 months of language study. The happy singing of the local congregation and the radiant faces of the believers strengthen his conviction that if any man being Christ is a new creature. He has not spent many days at his station before he realizes that one or two of his fellow missionaries are discouraged. He recalls a statement made by a missionary in a Biola chapel service. This veteran of the cross had said, "There is great need today on the foreign fields for someone who will be a missionary to the missionaries." With this in mind, our young Biola graduate seeks the face of the Lord in intercession for his fellow missionaries, and thus to the praise of God's glory, he becomes a source of spiritual renewing and refreshment to those for whom he is praying.

The missionary bungalow in which he is living is, filled with fellow language students and as it is his privilege to share his room with another. He would not have chosen to live or room with the one who is assigned to him. After all, this other fellow is so different in his likes and dislikes--even in his habits of prayer and Bible study, and certainly in his attitude toward the Indian people. Soon he discovers that the other fellow's little peculiarities are beginning to get under his skin. Had he not gone through that same experience during the second semester of his third year at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles? Then he wondered why, now he knows. He knows that the same savior who solved the problem there, will solve it here. Yes, indeed he will,

and he does. Through a frank talk together and through earnest prayer a big and lasting victory is one sweet is the fellowship enjoyed thereafter.

For months he sweats over the language problem; sometimes discouraged and sometimes encouraged. Sometimes feeling that it is a monster too big to conquer and at other times wondering why Babel was ever permitted. At such times he reminds himself of that which one of his missionary professors said, "Remember, young people, your attitude toward the language will go a long way toward your success or failure in obtaining it. And remember one more thing: try, even if you make a mistake, try to talk. Repeat every word you hear, every time you can, wherever you are." Through it all he repeatedly thanked God for the praying friends at home, who are interceding for him during these difficult days of language study. Though his main job is study, yet he keeps his soul fresh by teaching a Sunday school class and speaking at village meetings through an interpreter as the opportunities present themselves.

The successful completion of his second language exam makes him a full-fledged missionary, eligible to enter into the greatest work in the world; into the task for which he has spent so many years in preparation. Now the real value of his training in the Bible Institute of Los Angeles will be unveiled. He has already become adjusted to the food, the climate, the customs, and the manners of the people, but greater tests await him. Will he be willing to minister to others rather than wanting to be ministered unto? Will his desire to esteem others better than himself prove practical under the stress of laboring with those less educated than he? Will his knowledge of the Bible and his ability to impart it really cause others to turn from idols to serve the true and living God? Prayerful consultation with his Indian evangelist leads to a unanimity of desire in relation to the method to be used in the reaching of India's people.

The book of Acts' twofold approach, that is publicly and from house to house, is chosen. During the long hours of each day, individual after individual, farmer after farmer, and home after a home is visited. Each night, a public meeting is held. The gospel is first sung into the hearts of the people. Then the word is preached to them. At first the crowds are large, nearly the whole village turns out. But as the novelty wears off, the size of the audience diminishes. After three weeks of such nightly meetings, only the most interested souls remain. It is with these that he has an opportunity to test the fiber of his gospel. What will he tell these people? Where will he begin? There is so little they know and so much for them to learn. The Bible is so big and there is so much they need to be taught. Days of faithful, consistent, and persistent teaching following, follow. Line upon line, and precept upon precept, the great truths of the Bible are implanted in the hearts of his little group of interested listeners.

This was a new experience to teach people, who have little or no conception of the true holiness of God, that God hates sin and loves righteousness. Simple illustrations that would be understood by these people are prayerfully sought out and given. "Friends," he would say, "If you saw a king cobra about to strike your infant son or daughter, you would make every effort to kill it. Why? Because you know that if you don't kill it it will kill your child. And that's the way God looks upon sin. He hates it because he knows that the wages of sin is death. In like manner, God loves righteousness. When, for example, does your little 3 year old daughter look the most attractive and appealing to you? When she's crawling in mud; when her hair is unkempt in her face and hands are filthy? Or when her little body is nice and clean, and her hair is nicely combed, and her face is bright and shiny? You see, friends. God wants our hearts to be clean. For only the pure in heart shall see God. There is, however, no way in which we can cleanse our own hearts from their sin. There is no water, no soap that will do the job. There is no human method

and no manmade remedy for sin. But God says come, let us reason together. Your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Hours of teaching concerning the death, burial, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ then follow. Slowly but surely, repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ is born into the hearts of his listeners. Then that glorious day when these new believers publicly confess their faith in Christ comes and goes. Some opposition and persecution arise, but hos well taught disciples stand true to their newfound savior.

Before this young missionaries first six year term on the mission field comes to a close, he's had the joy of forming two small congregations of men and women who have been delivered from darkness to light, and from death unto life. What joy he has in relating the details to you upon his arrival home on furlough. Together you rejoice with him and the souls that have been won to Christ. In it all, you have had a glorious part in this, which is the biggest business in the world. Though you had almost forgotten it, it was your giving that had helped to make it possible for him to attend the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, and you had even stood faithfully by him on the mission field. But it began farther back than all of that. It began when you first started praying for him. He was just a high school lad. But you coveted his soul for Christ. You prayed, you worked, and you sacrificed, and now look at what God has done. Certainly it is far above all that you could have ever asked or thought. What joy fills your heart, and what a award awaits you in glory. You had a share in the greatest work in the world. All praise be to God, whose wisdom is and searchable and whose ways are passed finding out.

Hillis: The Greatest Work in the World

Al Sanders:

Today from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. It's been our pleasure to bring you a special address by Dr. Don Hillis, co-director of Orient Crusades and World Gospel Crusades. Dr. Hillis has spoken on the theme: The Greatest Work in the World. As we mentioned at the beginning of today's program, a limited number of copies of this message are available in printed form. You may have yours, or as many as you can profitably distribute, by writing Bible Institute, Los Angeles 17, California. Just ask for the message: The Greatest Work in the World, or say send me the Hillis message--we'll know which one you mean. The address again: Bible Institute, L.A., 17. And do join us again for another inspiring Bible study time from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles.