

# Verse by Verse: Interview with Mrs. Don Turner

By Louis T. Talbot

Louis T. Talbot:

Thank you Mr. Announcer and good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you on this another Monday morning and I do so in the wonderful name of our wonderful Lord and on behalf of the faculty and the student body of the Bible Institute. And the missionary that I have in my study and by my side this morning is Mrs. Dawn Turner who is with that unique radio station different from any other radio station in the world and you know it as HCJB. I had the privilege of visiting that station when I was in Ecuador and also being in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Turner and seeing the personnel of that radio station in action. HCJB exercises a tremendous influence not only in South America but in all parts of the world. I might say that Mrs. Turner graduated from the Bible Institute in 1921 and you would never believe that by just looking at her. She looks as though she belongs to the graduating class that is to be. But she and her husband have been pioneer missionaries now for 35 years and I feel that Latin America is as needy a field as any that you will find in the world. I am going to ask Mrs. Turner about this land and first Mrs. Turner I want you to greet these people and just greet our radio audience will you in Spanish and then tell them of course what you told, what you say.

Dawn Turner:

Talbot: Interview with Dawn Turner

Thank you Dr. Talbot [Greeting in Spanish] I have said good morning to our Christian brethren and friends and a special greeting to all of our vast radio audience.

Talbot:

And Mrs. Turner before I ask you a few questions about that land down there I wish you would tell us a little about yourself and about your family and the plans that your family have in mind.

Turner:

God wonderfully blessed, we went out to the field on our honeymoon and as well as giving us many spiritual children he has given us four precious girls, three girls and one boy. The oldest girl is in Venezuela as a missionary. The second girl is definitely in the Lord's work here in the United States. Our son is with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Ecuador and the youngest one is graduating from Wheaton College in June and planning to go out to the mission field in missionary radio.

Talbot:

Well my friends I think that that is what you would really call apostolic succession. Now here are a few questions Mrs. Turner. You know that some months ago the world was stirred by the martyrdom of six young men by the Auca Indians down there in Ecuador I think. How close are you to the Auca Indians?

Turner:

It is about an hour and a half by plane from Quito in Ecuador to the jungle area where the Auca Indians are found.

Talbot:

And Mrs. Turner did you ever go into that area where the Aucas reside in those jungles?

Turner:

It was my privilege to fly with the wives, the widows of those martyrs and hold the memorial service in the plane. We flew out in the American navy plane, circled over the spot where the men's bodies lay buried, Read from the scriptures, and had a word of prayer. A tremendous opportunity of soul searching to find just exactly how deep our devotion to the Lord was. And as we left the spot God said anew, "I beseech you brethren by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service."

Talbot:

Yes and that service must have been a very sacred one and a great privilege indeed to have been a part of it. I'd like to ask Mrs. Turner, Are efforts being made that day to contact the Aucas?

Turner:

Missionary Aviation Fellowship who gave their pilot Nate Saint among the martyrs is still making contacts every month with these same Indians. There is an amazing interest

Talbot: Interview with Dawn Turner

continually on the part of the Aucas to receive the gifts that are let down from the plane in the bucket and the Aucas are even now giving back gifts to the aviators as they fly over the spot. There has been some change, the village in which this man that they called George lived has been burned. Now of course we do not know what has happened but we do know that the custom of the Indian is to burn a village when there has been a death. And since they do not see men, that is the older men who they believe were the killers, the aviators believe that the younger men must have disposed of these older men. Of course this is only conjecture for there has been no personal contact. But the amazing thing that in the new village where they are making these drops in the bucket, the young men are even enthusiastically waving them, trying to get them to come down. And around this village, there is a fence built exactly like the fence that is built around the mission station at Arajuno. In other words, the Auca Indians that have been into the Arajuno area have not caused any or brought about any massacre but to the contrary are copying what the missionaries have done in their station. Continue praying that the Lord will make a peaceful contact in Arajuno between the Auca Indians and the missionaries.

Talbot:

Yes and thank you and I am sure that those young men did not die in vain. Now Mrs. Turner tell us what you do in Ecuador. That is you and your wonderful husband.

Turner:

Dr. Turner is director of the Bible Institute of the Air of the Voice of the Andes. We are under the direction of World Radio Missionary Fellowship and our particular task is to train pastors in Spanish by correspondence and teaching over the radio. That is, it's a combined effort

Talbot: Interview with Dawn Turner

of instruction by correspondence and by radio. So as far as the radio reaches, by shortwave and by long wave, and as far as the Mails go, we are able to reach our student body in 30 countries on five continents.

Talbot:

Yes and Mrs. Turner Tell the radio audience about that radio station HCJB. How did you happen to locate in Quito?

Turner:

Quito is the highest capital city in the world. And at the time that Dr. Jones was led of God to establish this radio station in South America, God closed him in to just one spot. Contrary to the radio engineer's instructions of that time, for they said that he should stay away from the equator and get as close to the ocean as possible, God led him up almost ten thousand feet and just 12 miles from the equator. That was the only place that he received a permit to establish the station. During these years, Radio engineers have changed their minds and now they say if you want a world coverage get as close to the equator as possible and the higher the mountain, the better. God who made radio led his servant to the proper spot for a world coverage.

Talbot:

Yes and I'm sure you remember Mrs. Turner that when I was down there that we you stood right on the equator and we almost froze to death. You know that that was a very unique experience. Now these call letters, HCJB, now call letters generally have a meaning and I'm sure that they have a meaning. Tell the audience just what the call letters mean.

Talbot: Interview with Dawn Turner

Turner:

HC are the letters that are given to that area. Just like in Los Angeles K is the call letter for this area, H C are the call letters for the area in which Ecuador is located. Then we chose the letters J B for the meaning of our theme, "heralding Christ Jesus' blessings." then also, not only in English but in Spanish, it means [Phrase in Spanish], "today Christ Jesus blesses." and since our major audience is one hundred and fifty million Spanish speaking people, naturally the use of these letters in Spanish is of even greater importance than the English theme.

Talbot: And what is the outreach of the Voice of the Andes, Mrs. Turner?

Turner:

It is a world coverage. I'm sure our listeners realize that as we step before the microphone our voices carried around this world on shortwave seven and one half times every second. And so certainly the psalmists words that, "their words have gone out to the ends of the Earth," are very true of the Voice of the Andes today. Our particular beaming area is to the groups that is the nations, who have the greatest number of shortwave receivers. And so we broadcast in nine different languages over shortwave and to the Spanish speaking people on long wave as well as short. In other words, our outreach is a world coverage.

Talbot:

When you say a world coverage Mrs. Turner, would that include Russia? Would the radio messages penetrate the iron curtain?

Talbot: Interview with Dawn Turner

Turner:

There is no curtain, no boundary through which radio cannot penetrate. We have received since January over 30 letters from behind the Iron Curtain. We have penetrated it. And we have been told that in Moscow we are coming in by shortwave like a local station.

Talbot:

Well that is wonderful indeed. Then you broadcast in various languages and over more than one wavelength, I would say.

Turner:

Yes we are radio stations plural, HCJB. Five short wavelengths and two broadcast bands or long wave.

Talbot: Yes and what is your particular work in this worldwide outreach by radio?

Turner:

Of course ours is a Bible teaching ministry. Our purpose is to train national pastors. Therefore we do not have as large a group taking our Bible correspondence courses as some who are especially teaching for unbelievers or new Christians. But our purpose is to reach the masses by way of the trained national worker. And may I just say Dr. Talbot that evangelical literature overseas has made an evaluation of the various Bible correspondence courses in Spanish and they have said that ours are the best available in Spanish on a seminary level.

Talbot: Interview with Dawn Turner

Talbot:

And so you and your husband direct the Bible Institute of the air of the Vodies of the Andes and teach the Bible by radio and by correspondence. Now how many students would you have enrolled would you say?

Turner:

It is an amazing student body, especially for a Bible Institute. We have over 12000 students enrolled in these Bibles searching correspondence courses.

Talbot: Yes and where would you say that they are located?

Turner:

We have a very special group in South America. But now our courses are being translated into French, Portuguese, German, and Russian. and so not only will we have our students as I mentioned before in 30 countries, on five continents, but in these continents we will reach all of those who speak French, Portuguese, Russian, and German, covering all of the western hemisphere as well as the western area of Europe and Africa.

Talbot:

And I guess that there are many of these young men and young women who are taking these studies by radio who will eventually penetrate the jungles in South America where there are Indians without any radio and without any knowledge of Christ at all. I guess that is so is it not Mrs. Turner?



Turner:

Yes Dr. Talbot It was my joy during this last term on the field to see the churches in this capital city of Ecuador gather in a marvelous missionary conference. You might call it the daughter of the Church of the Open Door conference for I, being supported by the Church of the Open Door along with my husband, felt the great need that the church itself, God's children, feel the burden of reaching out to those Indian tribes in their own country. and it would thrill your heart to see how the churches have been packed even down the stairways, and how young men and women, Spanish speaking Christians, have Heard the call and met the challenge to go out into the tribes where Christ has never been known. A joy that the Nationals themselves are taking over, a real thrill to cooperate with them in this effort. Do pray for these national Christians that they be truly missionaries in their own land.

Talbot:

And returning to the question in regard to the correspondence course, what will be the extent of the overall curriculum would you say?

Turner:

To teach as much as is possible by correspondence a complete Bible institute training. Now of course you realize that there are many pastors and they carry on the responsibility of the church but have never been able and never will be able to attend an established Bible institute or seminary because they have been converted at advanced age and they live in an area where it would not be possible for them to leave their families and their obligations; in an economic way they are tied. And so we reach to these who would have no other training whatsoever.

Talbot: Interview with Dawn Turner

Now in order to prepare them with a complete Bible institute training there will be 22 courses, each course having 22 lessons with four examinations, or three I should say, four segments in each examination. These examinations of the Bible Institute of the Air are presented as matching statements, multiple choice, true false, finishing phrases. And in that way we are able to correct their examinations with a key. In order to give them a well-founded knowledge of the scriptures, we will present to them these 22 courses, 18 of which will give them a diploma. In other words, some of these studies will be required and others elective.

Then in order to help them understand the Scriptures, we give them a great deal of expository instruction. They, having to present examinations, makes them really search the scriptures. For when one has to answer examination questions, they have to know the answer from the book. So we praise God that there are more or less a three year course Plans and with that a diploma. Now it would be interesting, I'm sure that our radio audience know that one young woman who finished six of these courses received a year's credit in an established Bible Institute.

Talbot:

Now we have all read about the marvelous civilization of the ancient Inca Indians. Now I wonder if there are any descendants, that is, pure blooded descendants of the Incas down there today.

Turner:

Yes there are, Dr. Talbot. Descendants of the Indians who were the original inhabitants of South America. For instance, in Quito There is a hill. On this hill, the Incas of the Northern

Talbot: Interview with Dawn Turner

Kingdom had their temple where they worshipped the sun. And their prayer was, "We worship thee sun, and if thou art not God we worship the one who made thee." And so the Quechua tribe is understood to be the definite descendant of the original Indians. But of course our countries in Latin America are not all Indian as some people think. There are some very fine, well-educated, and people who are wealthy people who have travelled among the Latin American people. And so I would help you understand our Latin American friends, wonderful folk, wonderful in every characteristic. And there are also the Indians who are in their definite tribes with their own tribal languages.

Talbot:

Now Mrs. Turner, you're on your own for about six minutes and you just tell these folks what's on your heart, they'd like to know when you're going back. And you know our radio audience is a very generous body of people and they'd like to know something about your needs down there. They'd also like to know about what has been accomplished, Individuals that have been transformed as you have seen the grace of God operating in their heart. Anything that is on your heart and I'm not going to interrupt you with any questions, just go ahead for about six minutes will you?

Turner:

Thank you Dr. Talbot and what a privilege it is to enter into your home today. I do thank you for opening your doors and your heart to receive the message that God, I'm sure, would have me bring to you just before I take my leave from the United States. I leave on the plane this evening at half past seven. We'll fly to Guatemala in Central America for a conference, I will be

there five days and then fly on down to Quito. I will be with our son just a day or so before he returns to the states on his furlough.

But oh if I could just get the radio audience to understand the heart throb of God as far as missions are concerned. Not just a side project, not just something for a group of women to do. I have just heard of the formation of a group of men that they call men for missions and my heart really rejoiced as men are getting under this burden, for desperately the need on the mission field is men. Today we live in a day of specialization and missionary effort is very different than it was when I went out to the field thirty five years ago. Specialization in every line, medicine, electronics, aviation, secretarial work, business administration. If you can tell me any line of specialization in the United States I would say especially to our young men and young women, God has a need for that specialty out on the mission field today.

And then why? It is because God has placed in the hands of missionaries in this which we believe the last day before the return of the Lord of the harvest, the means of reaching out and bringing to the ends of the earth the Gospel message, the only way of salvation. How often we hear in these days, "well if someone is sincere or if someone has a religion surely God is going to accept that." but that is not what we learn in the word. Dear friends, people can be very sincere but absolutely mistaken and there is only one name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. And so it is to bring this knowledge of this one great name, the wonderful name of the Son of God to the ends of the earth that men and women might believe and be saved.

Now Dr. Talbot asked if we had any needs. Of course you would understand that in a course that is printed there is a need for a printing press. We have had very desperate difficulties, loss of time, many hours spent in proofreading proofs that are very disastrous in their returns as far as the press itself is concerned and as far as the printed page is concerned. and so we are

asking God that he make available to us an off-set printing press where there can be by photo-static processes a transfer of a perfect copy into a perfect page, saving all of those many hours of going into the city, of proofreading, of going back and forth, delaying time and loss in energy. And so do pray with us that God make available to us very soon this offset printing press.

And then of course there are other needs as far as buildings are concerned. God is able to meet these needs. And as I said to a group not long ago, "How many of you believe in prayer?" I think everyone in the audience raised his or her hand. And then when I said to them, "How many of you believe in prayer five thousand dollars' worth?" I think there were only about ten who raised their hands. Dear friends how much do you believe God and how much is your faith worth? As far as his answering prayer, the Aucas stand in need of having the bands of Satan and of heathendom loosened from them. You have in the power of prayer the answer. God bless you it's been wonderful to have been with you.

Talbot:

And my friends, my radio friends I'm sure that you are being challenged by Mrs. Dawn Turner's message this morning. This servant of God, missionary to the people of South America and through HCJB, missionary to the whole world. Now I'm sure you're glad that we set aside our study in Hebrews this morning, not because missionary work is more important than the study of the word of God, but these two things go together That is, the study of the word of God and World Vision.