

## **Session 2: Declare His Glory Missions Conference 2007**

**By Nard Pugyao**

Speaker 1:

I just want to thank you so much for just the things that you've already taught us with this day, God. And I just praise you for just the new ways that you show yourself to us every day. God, I pray that you will bless this session, that you will bless NARD as he comes up and speaks, Lord, and that you will continue to just reveal yourself to us. So I commit this time, this day to you in Jesus name. Amen.

You may be seated. Well, first I want to thank Esther and Amanda for the painting that they're doing during the worship service. We wanted to find new ways to incorporate all of the senses into worship, and we asked them to paint and they were very kind to accept. I also encourage you guys to look at the chalk art that's around the mailboxes. We have 14 students who agreed to do that as well and interpret the theme in their art. It's amazing, especially for somebody who has no artistic talent at all. I look and I'm like, my goodness.

I just have two announcements that we forgot this morning. The first is that there is an information booth in front of the art gallery near the health center over by the missionary organization tent. So if you have any questions throughout the conference, you can stop by there and they should have the answer for you. So that's again, in front of the health center. I'm from the art gallery. And then also Global Awareness is out in McNally, which is the old junior high

portion of Biola. So if you'd like to go to Global Awareness, head out to McNally. And that is where it is.

Obviously, we were blessed in the first session with Dr. Solomon from Africa and his amazing style. I wish he would have continued to go on. I was like, keep going. Today we are going to be able to be blessed by NARD Pugyao and we have a very unique opportunity. I'm not sure the last time we've had this opportunity at Biola to hear from a man who is a direct result of Bible translation work. NARD came from a tribe that Isnog tribe in the Philippines and he is a first-generation Christian, one of the first of his language groups. So I guess it was an unreached group. And here's a direct result. He wanted me to make sure that the focus was on the fact that he is a result of missionary work.

After he became saved, he came to America and studied at Moody and became a missionary pilot. And in 1997, he started work on translating the New Testament into his language. And he had the privilege of being able to fly the first 500 copies back to his tribe. So I'm sure he's going to share with us some of the stories about that. In June 2006, they recently completed a new revision of that translation and they were able to add genesis and Exodus. I believe they're at work on the entire Old Testament. And currently he is working in mobilizing people to be more global minded and towards the aim of missions. So he's got a great sense of humor. I'm sure you'll enjoy it. When I asked him what he wanted me to say, he just said, oh, just say this is a quote. I'm just an ordinary guy, nothing special, just a savage from the jungle. He told us that could we spot him at the airport by his native guard? He'd be wearing a little string with a leaf and his pilot hat, so he's just got a great sense of humor. I'm sure that you will be very blessed by what he has to say. So Nard..

Nard:

But thank you very much. It is an honor to be here. Thank you, Dr. Cook and missionaries alike and parents, missionary kids and students and staff. Thank you. And to Dr. Solomon, I wish you would have just continued, forget about me, and I'm just one of those ordinary people. But what a privilege it is to be a part of your missions conference here. My first time in California in Biola I mean, and I'm just really impressed and had a good dinner with Dr. Cook and his wife the other night. I found out he's Ibuano, he speaks. Ibuano you know.

I come from the Philippines, where it's only 84 million people, 7, 107 islands, and a little tiny place out somewhere there on the other side of California.

And it was good to see Amanda Quicken Bush here and meet Melanie Lyman and then Patrick Murphy. They're like nephew and niece is here for me and Biola here. And it's just really great to be here.

Yeah. Missionaries fault is I have to wear shoes and clothes. It's all their fault. And this afternoon or this morning, I went out to the tent where all these missionaries are representing something in there. And I was walking in there, and some of them were asking me if I wanted to become something, if I wanted to learn about their mission. I said, no, leave them alone. They're happy the way they are. I just bought me a new car and a new cow. I don't want to have anything to do with it. Then I just started walking around, and it was just a lot of fun to see some of the reaction of people that didn't know who I was, whether I was a student here or something. I said,

no, I'm just passing through, so it's a lot of fun. I have a lot of fun here. So thank you for allowing me to be a part of your conference.

My grandfather was being visited by his grandson, and he was feeding his grandson. His grandpa was really proud of feeding his grandson, so he put his grandson right there sitting on the table, and the grandson looked at the plate, and it looks awful dirty. And he said, Grandpa, did you wash this plate. He says, oh yeah goodness, cold water gets clean, just eat your dinner. So he started eating his dinner and then pretty soon he was scratching the plate again. Grandpa, this is awful dirty. Are you sure you wash this plate? He said yes, as good as cold water gets it clean, just eat your dinner. So he ate his dinner and was very happy. And then he went outside to play and he was really having a good time out there and it was time for him to go home. But Grandpa's dog would not let him out of the gate. And he said, Grandpa, I got to go home, but your dog won't let me out of the gate. Could you tell him to stop? And grandpa said, Cold water, come here.

Now that I got your attention, it's 02:00 and I wanted to go to sleep because I got up at 03:00 California time. I'm an eastern coast time, so 3 hours difference. But I was up at 03:00 today, so I'm ready to go to bed. So I'll let you go to bed, I won't hold you up too long.

But it's exciting for me because I'm really a result of what missionaries do, because I met Jesus Christ as a result of the word of God. That's why I believe in the word of God. That it's the manual for living. The word of God is awesome. It's powerful. It says so in Hebrews 4:12 and 13, where it says for the word of God is living in active, sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, able to judge the

thoughts and intentions of the heart. No creature is hidden from his side, but all are openly bear to him with whom we have to do that's. The word of God. We believe the Bible is God's message for all people, no exception, all over the world and to the end of the earth. That's the word of God.

And Dr. Solomon already mentioned Matthew 20 414, where Jesus and his disciples were one day talking about the end times. And he mentioned it, 24: 14 where it says and Jesus said to his disciples, and this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations. And then he said, the end will come. Wouldn't it be awesome if Jesus would return right now? Why wouldn't he? He should come right now. We would just forget about mission conferences. Wouldn't it be awesome if he would return? I wouldn't have to speak. It's just be awesome that Jesus would return.

But you know, he's not going to do that until everyone hears, until his gospel is preached to the end of the earth. That's why I enjoy I like your theme mission this year: we count his wonders and declare his glory. That's what it's all about for all of us for you, for you here staff and missionaries alike, missionaries kids, and every one of you here students. That's what it's all about. But simply steal the gospel of Jesus Christ for us to declare the wonders, I meant to declare his glory, recount his wonders.

So this afternoon, I wanted to share with you that one there because I wanted to think of your own personal life, to say where God orchestrated everything in your own personal life so that he brought you here to this day. I was so blessed by Dr. Solomon this morning. Wanted to sign up

all over again because it's awesome to know that the God of heaven on earth really cares about all of us. And for me, I can still remember I was sitting inside the little bamboo hut, watching through the bamboo cracks, terrified to death, because I knew what was going to happen as a little old woman was approaching our hut, had a rolled up mat under her arm, a little pouch in her back.

She was coming because my little sister was to the point of death. And this little old woman happened to be the doctor in the village. Well, it's not a doctor like Dr. Solomon is, but a medical doctor, but the witch doctor that could communicate to the spirit world. And as he was approaching a little hut, I could remember sitting inside the little corner, terrified to death, because I knew what she was going to do. She was going to call on the spirit world to appease them somehow, to make sure that my little sister was going to live. She moved up towards her hut. She climbed to the bamboo stairs. She got inside the bamboo hut. She walked up towards my little sister lying down on the bamboo floor. She took her rolled up neck and she unrolled it beside her. And then she knelt down and took her pouch, taking four very special leaves she picked from a tree nearby. And the leaves, she formed them like a cloverleaf, like then she held us and she closed her eyes and mumbled something in a language I could not understand. She toss up the leaves in the air and the leaves come fluttering down on the floor mat and she was supposed to decipher what the spirits had demanded the very moment whether they would kill my little sister, demand a form of sacrifice, or provide some kind of a medication.

But you all know that spirits are real, right? They're real in America, just as they're real in the jungles where I grew up. The Bible talks about that. In Ephesians it says, we don't fight against

flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities in the heavenly host. So the spirit world are real. They're real in Biola, too. But we don't have to be scared of them, because the Bible again assures us he that is in us is greater than he that is in the world. Jesus Christ is greater than anything else. But did you know the forest in the jungles, they demanded our pigs or chickens or dogs or cows, plus they demanded our total allegiance to them.

But, you know, all I could remember was that my little sister died. But I could still visualize it to this day. My father with a hammer, hammering the little box where my little sister lay down. I knew then at the age of three or four, there was life and death. I don't know but you all. But the older I get, the more I marvel at how awesome the God of heaven and Earth is, recounting his wonders and declaring his glory. It's awesome to know that he is the God of heaven on earth.

And I remember 1949 was one of those years I won't forget. Because in a little town called Irv, Vermont, where there are more cows than people, a young man by the name of G. Richard Row, age 18, was in that little town going down to Spoon Lake, New York. That's a Word of Life camp right in Spoon Lake. And Jack Watson, the founder of World of Life International, was a preacher that day. I don't know what he preached, but all I know is that Dick was one of the campers listening to Jack Wordson. The invitation was given. Dick was one of the first ones to get up out of the seat, walk that aisle, giving his heart to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to serve him in missions. And when I think about that, I said, God, how awesome it is. And that while you were still forming me, in my mother womb, you were already speaking to the heart of the person who would travel halfway around the world to introduce me to the person of Jesus Christ. To me, that's an awesome God.

Why on earth the creator of heaven on earth, why would he care about such a dirt, savage worm like me? Why would he care about you? Why would he do that? Oh, that's the awesomeness of God. That's why we worship him in every way that we can. And did you know that right this very instant, God is forming in secret the person that is one of you will have to go and introduce to the person of Jesus Christ. In a mother's womb he's creating the person sell by sell, piece by piece, so that you will be an instrument of his grace to make sure the person being created right this moment will hear about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Dick knew that in the world were 3,000 some languages back in the 50s who have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ. And he wanted to have a part in that, making sure that the gospel of Jesus Christ is given to them in a heart language. Because when people have the word of God in their heart language, they understand it best. So you have to give it to them in the languages they understand best. Nikon, just go at age 18. That's why you here are learning some tools along the way so that you could be better equipped to serve the God of heaven and earth. Dick knew that he couldn't just go at age 18. He had to get some tools.

So he went to Wheaton College, majored in anthropology, graduating in 1953. Well, that was another special year for me, because in 1953, Wycliff Bible translators were invited to come to the Philippines. Ramon Makzai, the president of the Philippines, writing to Cameron Townsend, the founder of Wycliff, who was down in Mexico doing translation work. And Thompson received this letter from the President, and he said to him, Mr. Thompson, I understand your linguistic research and Bible translation work. Would you please come to our country and start your work in the Philippines? Of course, Mr. Thompson's heart and passion for God was the



word of God in the heart language. He couldn't pass that opportunity, so he sent out one of his men to the Philippines by the name Richard Pitman, arriving in the Philippines, in 1953 signing the contract with the government, February 28, 1953. And Bible translation started in the Philippines.

And I was growing up in the northern jungles waiting to hear about the God of heaven and earth. You know, God orchestrates every details in our lives, and you put people in a strategic way. That's why missions is what it's all about. It's not what you could do for God, but what God could do in your own life and taking you where you are and say, hey, I want you and to be so passionately and intimately in love with him. And you couldn't do anything else but serve him.

Otiko graduates from Wheaton College, racing his support, moving from IRA, Vermont to Brewer, Maine. And then he was on his way to San Francisco to board a freighter January 10, 1956. And I always liked to picture him in San Francisco 1956, a couple of days before boarding the freighter. Maybe he was walking the streets of San Francisco, and all of a sudden, he picks up a magazine or a newspaper in bold headlines. It said January 8, 1956. It says, five missionaries were murdered by ALQA Indians in Ecuador, South America. And I've always thought, what if he said, Forget it, God. I'm not going to go as missionaries. Sabbath just killed missionaries. He knew he was going to go to the Philippines to work among headhunters. And he just said, forget about going. Look at this. God sat in this cook and said, I got to go teach at a university, whatever it takes, please don't let me go. What if his parents said to him, no, son, we can't let you go. Don't go? And he had every right to say, hey, I'm not going. I am not going to go

back. But you know, when he gave his heart and his life to Jesus Christ, that would have life camp. He never looked back.

He moved forward, boarding the flight of January 10, 1956, arriving Manila, February 1956. And when he got there, the director of WyCliff said to him, they would like you to go work among the Isnaiks. Well, that's my language. That's what they call us. That's my heart language. They call us Isnaiks. He started asking the questions where we were located. They told him we were located way up in the northern jungles of the Philippines. You know, I live in the south. If you live in the south, they would consider me Yankee by birth.

You wouldn't understand that in California, would you? And they told him, you go as far as you could by bus to the northern coast of the Philippines. To get to the end of the road, you got to go on a ferry boat to the next river. You get to the Upolog river, paddle your canoe, go nuts upstream. You get to the end of the canoe, ride, hike another 8 hours, then you'll be in the heart of Disnut territory. That's what he did, March 1956, going by canoe by hiking. A week and a half later, he landed in a little village called Baghut, my village. And if you look at the map of the Philippines, you look for the word Baghut. It's nowhere to be found, but it's stuck away up in the northern jungles. And, you know, I have a GPS position to prove it's really there.

And if you were the Isnaik people, all of a sudden this guy walks in your village, six foot two, white, pale, and clumsy. What would you want to do with them? Would you want to eat them? Oh, yeah. We love white people. They taste like chicken. We were scared. I looked at Dr. Cook this morning. I looked at him, and he was so tall. I said, Wow. Boy. I was tempted to tell him if

he would have come in jungles where I grew up a long time ago, I would have been terrified. We were scared. We were suspicious. What on earth is this guy doing? He didn't know the language. Did know our culture. Do you know anything about us? We started communicating with him the best way we could. Why are you here? And we understood that he'd come to learn a language that was so bizarre. I mean, you come for all we know, he could have come from outer space, but why would you come and learn our language for what? We didn't believe him? We're still suspicious. And he tried to communicate to us and said, I'd come to learn your language. And then we found out he was American. We knew about Americans because Second World War General MacArthur said, I shall return. Second World War ended. We were liberated. We knew about you, the most powerful people on Earth, the richest in all the world. But what on earth is this guy doing in the village of the Baghut where where it's subsistent living. Living day in and day out. You live to survive. Survive to live. Why would you come? Why would you do that? We didn't believe him, that he was really there to learn our language. So we kept asking him, Why are you really here? He said, I'd come to learn your language and give you God's word in your heart language. And we said to him, God, did you say it? He said, Yeah. God? Who is your God? We said to him, he said he said, God of heaven on earth, he created you, Isnaiks. He created everything you see. And we said to him, Is he powerful? He said, Yeah, he's powerful. Is he more powerful than our ancestors, our head hunters? He said, yes, it's more powerful than is he more powerful than the spirit world that controlled our lives from the beginning of time? He said, Yeah, it's more powerful. We wanted to know more about his God because we were sick and tired of living in fear all the time. You walk the trail, you've got to be careful. You got to listen to the woman bird as it tells you what to do and what not to do because that's what life was all about. But we didn't know how to get out of it.

And we wanted to know more about His God. So we started teaching him our language. And he looked into our mouth. He wrote everything. We didn't have a written alphabet. We started feeding him some exotic food. We eat some exotic food where I come from. From grubs to beetles to dog meat. In fact, I have 101 ways to walk your dog. You know what walk is right. You walk the dog that way. And beetles, you could eat them, live with it. You could eat beetles live. You've got to be careful. If you eat them live, you got to take the legs off before you pop them in your mouth. If you don't, they'll crawl back out. And if you really want to be a good missionary, they've got to learn the song that says where he leads me, I will follow what he feeds me, I will swallow. Sometimes the most disgusting thing to do is to eat the food you're not familiar with.

I did not tell Hilary this, but two times now I've been sitting next to her, and she's eating this bowl of cottage cheese. I love your food in this country, but I hate cottage cheese. And I was watching Hillary in there scooping the stuff in there. And did you know that people sometimes become fancy with cottage cheese? They put it in a china bowl and they put cherry on top. You know what the cherry is for? Camouflage the movement. It moves. I was watching Hillary's food, and it was moving a little bit. And my wife allowed only three pets because I give them their names breakfast, lunch and dinner. And she decided she wanted some birds, so I call them snacks.

So this missionary was learning our language. He started writing everything in there. And then my parents told me I was old enough to go to first grade. I don't know if you go to first grade here when you're six or seven. In the Philippines, you go when you're seven, at least in the

village where I grew up. The problem with my father is he didn't know when I was born. And I argued with him that you don't even know when I was born into this day. I don't know when I was born. I had to make up a date to get a passport. And he said to me, Are you too you're seven years old? I said, No, dad, you don't know when I was born. He said, he points a big mountain. He said, I remember you were born when we had a rice field on top of the mountain there. I said, Yeah, right. I might have been born then, but I'm not seven. He said, you are seven. Reach across your head, touch your ears. I want like this. And sure enough, I could touch my ear on the other side. Gee, you're seven, go to school. So what else could I do about hiking the mountain up to the next valley? An hour later ended up in this classroom. And they were not teaching in a vernacular, my language was it snug they were teaching in Locano, tagalog and English. I headed school, and for three months I skipped school and flunked out of first grade. But, you know, these missionaries were learning our language, writing our alphabet, writing books and everything, and it was just awesome to see that they could write our language in there. We spoke about we didn't know how to write it. And then they gave all the books to the teachers. And second year we start first grade all over again. Books were available in my language, and I love school from there. I used it from there on. I was just excited that we used to bring all these exotic food to this missionary because we wanted to know more about his God.

And one day he was telling us how awesome his God was and the God of heaven and earth, he said, Jesus, he came down to earth. And then we found out he was nailed on the cross. And we were kind of disappointed because he told us that his God was powerful. And yet what kind of a God is it that could not even protect his only son from being nailed on the cross? Our ancestors are head hunters. They defend the dust to the very death. Nobody could touch us because they

defended us as to the very death. You think your God is powerful, yet he could not protect his own. We can't believe in a God like that. We wanted a god who could protect us, so that when we walked the trail, we would not have to be scared of the spirit world. But here is your God. We can't believe in a God like that. And you tried to explain the concept of grace to people whose lives revolved around revenge type of killing. It doesn't make sense. But the Bible says for by grace, we don't know anything about that. And they could have just said, forget about you, Isnaiks you'll never understand. And he could have just left. But you know, he stuck it up because he believed in his heart that God took him from there, orchestrated all the details and planted him right there so that we would come to know Jesus Christ. And one day he started Bible translation work. And the power of this book I carry with me all the time, the Gospel of Mark.

In this knocking, as long as I live, I'll never forget Christmas Day 1962, as I was reading for the very first time the word of God in Isnaik, my heart language, taking it down below the village of the bargain, sitting on top of a big rock, reading for the very first time chapter 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Gospel of Mark, not reading about the Christmas story, but about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. And for some reason I was reading those chapters in there and all of a sudden I said when I was reading there, I said, God, removing the veil out of my eyes, peeling them off so that I could understand and for the very first time follow and visualize on my heart.

Let me ask you a personal question. When you read the word of God in your heart language, you allow the spirit of God to peel the veil out of your eyes so that you could see Jesus Christ and him alone. And for the very first time, the word of God was penetrating deep into my heart. And

I was reading, you know, one of the things that I remember was reading chapter 13, Jesus and his disciples come out of the temple and one of the disciples made a comment, say, master, look how awesome, how awesome the rocks, look at the homes, look at this temple, how beautiful. The disciples were admiring everything they were seeing from the outside. And the Master said to him, you know, one of these days one of these rocks are going to be laid up on top of each other. The things that you see on the outward appearance in one day Go poof, that's why everything that you and I own in this world will one day become poof like that. But the eternal things that we do for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the people that we share Jesus Christ with, those have eternal significance. That's what we do. That's why we share conferences like this, so that this conference will not just be another missions conference, but it will be a turning point in your life wherein you give your heart, your life to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ. That's what he wants.

I continued reading and I come to the picture of the Last Supper. The Last Supper. Some of you might hang the picture of the Last Supper on the wall. You know what Jesus says on the picture? He says, Hey, guys, come on this side of the table if you want your picture to be taken. I probably get in trouble theologically here by Biola, but that's okay. I leave on Saturday. And then I was following them. The visual image I was following as if I was right there listening to the Master in there teaching his disciples. I was following them. I followed them to the garden. I was watching the mobile people. This is all a visual image of what the word of God does when he changes our lives for the cause of Christ, when we see for the very first time who Jesus really is. And I was following them.

And then pretty soon they were taking the Son of God, the mobile people, taking the Son of God, took him out of the garden and taking him before the religious leaders, before the people that knew about the God of heaven. They knew about the Bible, they knew everything they were. The people that knew about the law. But I said, what did he do? I mean, why are they treating him that? I was really disturbed inside us? What did he do? What did the Son of God do? And I was reading it as fast as I could to find out what was happening in there. But pretty soon they were mocking him and spitting on him. Pretty soon they were beating him up. Can you picture the cross? Like Dr. Solomon said? Pick up your cross. I mean, I picture the cross, the cruelty of the human race.

I picture it in a way that, why would God do that for me? And beating up the Son of God and putting a crown of thorns, forcing it on his head. Pretty soon the nails there was a breaking point deep in my heart. I could not bear that picture image. And I was so angry at God, I closed this book and shook my fist across the river. And I said, I hate you, God, for what you're doing. Why should I believe in a powerless God like you? And I was so angry at God, I threw this Gospel of Mark down through the rocks and shook my fist some more. And I said, I'll go never believe in a powerless God like you. I wanted a God who could protect me so that when I walked the trail, I wouldn't have to be scared of the spirit world. But here's the God of this missionary. I'll never believe it. Shook my fist in hatred of God. And I started walking off towards a village, leaving my gospel down to the rocks.

But, you know, the exciting part of it is when God speaks to us and he reaches down from heaven, reaching into my little heart as if he was squeezing at this dark. Don't you understand



that's how much I love you? And for the very first time, I understood what the cross was all about. And I understood what his grace is all about. For by grace you have been saved through faith. I was new. That's what the Bible says. Second Corinthians 5:17. If anyone is in Christ, this is a new creation. The old has passed. Behold, everything becomes new. I gave my heart to Christ.

Are you new this afternoon? Do you know Jesus? You come to Biola and you learn all about the theological stuff in there. Do you know Him? Do you love Him? Man, he wants you to give your heart to Him, you know? I said, Lord, my heart belongs to you. I'm all yours. And I went there and picked up my gospel in there. I said, Let me see what happened. And I sat back on top of the rock and found out the power, the resurrection, that Jesus died on the cross. They buried Him in a tomb. On the third day, he rose again from the grave. But, man, this is awesome. Nobody among the Isnaik people have ever risen from the grave. I said, Wow, this is awesome. I love to listen to Don Francisco. A guy from Moody or Word of Life gave me a copy of Don Francisco singing. He's alive, he's alive I've been forgiven heaven's gates are open wide he's alive and you know he's alive today. Is he alive in your life? It's awesome.

And from there, God took me on an incredible journey. I challenge Him one more time. Lord, I said, I'll give you my life. My heart belongs to you, but please help me go to school. I didn't know what further education was, but I wanted to go to high school. But there was no way for my parents to submit a school because there were subsistence farmers. Even to this day, my family back home are subsistent farmers, day in and day out, living to survive, survive to live. You talk about poor, but they're rich because of the God of heaven and earth. Material things

you're poor, but rich because of God. And I said, Lord, if you're real, you provide an education for me.

Meanwhile, the missionary was back in Maine and he came back to the Philippines in January in 1964. And I told him I met Jesus. You know, for us missionaries, when people come to know Him, it's a joy of ministry you try to share about Jesus Christ to your friends and to people. All of a sudden, they see the light and they give their life and their heart to Jesus Christ. It's a lot of fun to see the joy.

In fact, just three weeks ago, a soldier that came with me on short term mission from Pope Air Force Base gave his heart to Jesus Christ right in the Bhagut where I was born, my second birth, 44 years ago. And I said to him, Barry, how awesome it is that you gave your heart to Jesus Christ. You sophisticated people. How much more the Savages like me would come to know him? How much more for people like you, sophisticated as it could be? It is true.

He comes back to the Philippines, and I told him I met Jesus, and he was excited about it. He said, Man, I'm really excited to complete the translation in your language, but I got to go to Mintanao, and I didn't know where Mintanao was. I was disappointed because he was leaving the village again. So I got to go down there for four years. But then he said to me, he said the sweetest music to my ears that he said, I got to go there, but I need somebody to come with me from the village. And he said, the sweetest music. He said, how would you like to go to Mintanao with me? You help me with the language, and I'll help you go to school. And I said, Wow, God is awesome. Then he said something crazy. He said, but we need to build an airstrip.

I said, what's an airstrip? He said, Where airplane lands. What's? An airplane airstrip? Airplane what? Is this guy crazy or what? Do I see nothing? Or what? We believed him because he knew more than we did.

So we built an air strip in my village of the Bhagut we got everybody there. We built this strip at 600ft long, 60ft wide. We finished it within three months, and we named it the Bhagut International Airport. In March of 1964, this beautiful hillier courier comes and lands on a newly built airstrip. And I was in awe of this airplane, and I thought it was just the most exciting things in the world, this airplane landing in a village airstrip in there. I was in it. But it was my first time out of the village, too, to go to an unknown world I didn't know existed. I was all excited. This missionary wanted to take me down someplace that I didn't know, didn't know how far, but I could remember the pilot fastening my seatbelt in it. I was all smiles. He put the missionary next to me, and I was all smiles, looking on the side. And I said, Oh, this is really awesome. The engine rode. It was still okay. And pretty soon he was moving down this undulating air strip, and we were airborne. And I thought I was a gooner. I screamed for dear life, grabbing hold of his leg. I said, Oh, no, this is not the way to die. God, please don't let me die. And screaming for dear life in pure terror for 55 minutes. And when we landed in Bhaghut, I thought I made a conclusion. Flying was really for the birds. If God wanted people to fly, he would have given them wings, but it would have anything to do with flying. But, you know, one of the neat things is that God can take us out of anywhere where we are and make something out of something out of nothing.

And he can take any one of you and say, hey, I want you. I want your life to give it to me and I'll make wonders. I took the challenge. I came to this country and went to La Tourna and onto Moody. Joined Wycliff almost 30 years ago. Found my wife Sandy, born in Fresno, California, and she chased me for four and a half years until I caught her. We are married for 30 years and we were on the first assignment to the Philippines. And the exciting part of that was flying the first 500 copies of this book, the New Testament to the Bhagut. That's how I was packing them. I was asking the question, Lord, what if Dick said no? What if his mother and father said to no, we can't let you go? Or what if his supporters said to no, we can't support missionaries, we'll send them my used tea bags, but no, we don't want to support them. What if I'd still be in Bhagut? Then as I was packing them, I said, Lord, I'd still be here worshiping the spirit world. But no, you protected them because you knew I was coming.

And you orchestrated a long time ago that I would be the one to fly the first 500 copies of this book. I loaded them in that airplane I was flying to the Bhagut, I fastened my wife's seatbelt and we took off on a clear day on our way to the Bhagut. And as I got closer there, I could see the winding uplook river. The missionaries traveled for 25 years doing this book in my language in there. And I said, God, you could have drowned every one of them wicked with them. Never send anybody else to come there. No, he protected them because he knew the Isnaik's needed the word of God. I got on top of the airstrip. I banked a hillier courier and looked pretty good. 600ft, but 45 minutes hike to next valley is where I was born. Half a minute later I was circling the little village of Bayou and down below I could see coconuts after coconuts after coconuts. And underneath the coconut go three huts. And I said to the Lord, as if you didn't know, the third hut on the right, you found me in secret there. How awesome it is that you pluck me out of there to

become yours. An awesome thought that he can pluck any one of you here today and say, Hey, give me your life and I'll make wonders for my glory. That's what I lined up for. That approach I couldn't miss.

And I touched down within 200ft or taxi to the end, I turned around, I shut down, and I got out. My wife got out and I went to the back seat. My oldest son Stephen went to the back seat of the airplane. I took one box out, I placed it on the ground and I said, I went for the second box. It's running up the hill. But they were all my relatives and Becky Hines was just there in June for a dedication. I picked up the second box and I was about ready to put it on the ground. A woman picked up the first box and she placed it on top of her head. I looked at what's my older sister Emma and I hollered and said, Hey, Manang, that means older sister. She turned around, she said, adding, Younger brother, what's up? I said, Hey, Manang, do you know what you're carrying? She said, It's just a box. I got to move it out of the way. I said to her, Amen. Those are New Testaments in our language. And at that moment, I wished I had a camera to capture her. The moment the smile on the face of sparkle in the eyes. I see smile big. Moved her leg up a little bit, grabbed hold of the other side, lifting it with all her strength and literally brought it down. And she said, Are you serious? I'm going to have a copy of my very own New Testament in our language. And inside my heart it was about ready to burst. And I said, Oh, God, what if Dick said no?

And just imagine for one moment the feeling of reading for the very first time the word of God in your heart language, where it penetrates you deep to the very core of your being. [foreign language 00:39:48] That's the penetrating power of this book. But we got to give it to people in

the heart languages. That's power. Yeah. What is it about you? I carry this because this is a book and I ran out of time. This is a computer printout of all the languages left to do. 2, 229 languages yet to go. We have never heard about the Good News of Jesus Christ. It'd be right here in the mids of Biola University. Maybe another big row. Or Clyde Cook or Dr. Solomon would be willing to say, hey, I want to go and take some of those languages. 380,000,000 people who have never heard or even have one gospel of the Good News of Jesus Christ. What are you going to do about it? That's a challenge.

So, our Father, we thank you for what you're going to do. Thank you for the students and staff, missionaries here. Thank you for the missionary kids. Thank you for everyone. Thank you for what you're doing. May it just not be another missions conference, but a conference that will turn their hearts to you and nothing else. Because long time ago, you orchestrated that some of them will go to the ends of the earth, recount your wonders and declare your glory so that every person on earth will hear that this gospel is your message in Christ. Amen.