

Opening Session at Gym Missions 2000

By: Mark Cahill

Castillo:

Good morning, Biola. I'm David Castillo, missions conference director.

Catfish:

And I'm Catfish, Assistant Missions Conference director.

Castillo:

And we have been working hard getting this thing for you. A couple of announcements for you this morning, you guys all received a green booklet that looks like this in your mailbox. Couple of changes in here. Silk Road is scheduled in here to do a seminar today that's been canceled. UIM their seminar in here says Gym Seven. It's actually Myers 108. Myers 108 if you're planning on going to that one. This afternoon, we've got lunch on Metzger lawn. How many saw the big white tents over on Metzger lawn? Yeah, some people slept in there last night. That tent is where all of our missions' organizations are this year. We've outgrown the sub, which is kind of a blessing in disguise, and we're now on Metzger Lawn. We're going to do lunch over there today. Big barbecue that the caf is putting on. So, the cafeteria building will be closed. Don't go there for lunch. You won't get anything. Come to Metzger Lawn instead. There's an article in your booklet that talks about how to best utilize the mission's organizations that are here.

They've got some great resources. One of the guys was telling me last night that take the literature they have, they bring it for us.

It's not for them to put on their display and just kind of collect dust. That's for us. And the stuff that we don't take, they've got to take home. So, help them out a little bit. Take it. Read it. It's some good stuff in there. Also going on this week, we've got Global celebration this afternoon at 3:30 on the Sycamore Lawn over by Calvary Chapel. That's going to be a time for you to have some good food, which is a plus, as well as get to know some of the reps that are here. Come out for that one. Global awareness. Last year, that was in the tent on Subaru parking lot. We moved that over to the first floor of the Sutherland. So, come over and see that. We've got a big amount of countries represented there this year. Seven. I'm told a couple of them off the top of my head are Philippines, Sudan, Brazil, Turkey, England, and Albania. Hey, I got it. The time is for that are Wednesday and Thursday, two to five. Friday, one to three. Make sure you see that they've been working hard on that guy, so go see that one.

Also, tonight, we have a Muslim Christian dialogue. This is a time for you to come and learn more about Islam. Islam is the fastest growing religion, as Ryan was saying in the world. We want to bring awareness for you guys. This is a time for education. And your attitude, a good attitude for that is definitely desired. We'd like to now welcome Dr. Cook to open us in prayer.
Dr. Cook.

Cook:

Let's pray together. Father, we just thank you for this time it's been set aside for you to speak to us, we might learn more about how we might glorify you. Father, truly you're worthy of all our glory. We love you and we bless you. We thank you. Thank you for the missionaries that have come, Father taking time out of their busy schedules to be with us and to share how you've worked in their lives and just seeing your incredible faithfulness to each one. So, we just commit this conference to you now with our love and Thanksgiving. In Jesus name, amen. I need some lights. Can I have some lights? Not only so I can read what I wrote here, but also, I want to show you something. Obviously, I'm not God. It's been my privilege for many years to welcome you to the Missions Conference. I'm so glad that you're here as I feel that these days are some of the most important in our academic calendar. We consider this part of the academic year. This is my 39th Missions Conference, going back to when I was a student. And each has been very special and a wonderful blessing to Annabelle and me.

As you probably know, every year I pray for rain during the conference. But something happened this year, instead of rain, we have this wonderful beach weather as soon as the fog burns off. But I know what's going on. This student body is one of the two most spiritual student bodies we've ever had at Biola. And I realized that the Prince of the power of the Air is tempting you with this weather. You must resist that temptation, and I'm confident that you will. However, just in case you're feeling weak, let me show you the headline from today's La. Times great White Attacks. Need I say more? This has been a tremendous year. Our Student Missionary Union to the leadership of Ryan Keating along with the Missions Conference director David Castillo has done such an outstanding job and I want to thank them and all those who have worked with them for a job as well as so many volunteers that we saw in Monday at during

Chapel Time. Each year, Biola holds two conferences the Missions Conference and our Torrey Memorial Bible Conference where classes are dismissed so that we can reaffirm our two historical commitments.

We at Biola are committed to knowing the word of God. So, the biblical worldview permeates all that we do and say we have the strongest commitment to the amount of undergraduate Bible requirements of all the Christian colleges. The other strong commitment is to see the Word of God spread. And these Missionary Conference days are given so that you might focus on the second historical commitment. Why do we spend these days apart to concentrate on world Missions? Because there are over 2 billion people in the world today who have never heard that wonderful name that we love and revere. There are over 10,000 people groups that have no gospel witness. Unless somebody crosses a cultural barrier and shares Jesus Christ with them, they will die without ever hearing the glorious good news of salvation. It is my prayer that God will use this time in all of our hearts to bring us closer to his heart and to understand his will for the world and for each of our individual lives. Special word of appreciation for our missionaries who are here. Thank you for coming, and I trust that all of our students will take advantage of the wealth of experience, love, compassion and commitment that you bring as you live and move among us.

These next three days, let's have all the missionaries stand that we might welcome them. And now it's my pleasure to introduce the mayor of La Mirada, the honorable Bob Chatner. Mayor Chatner has served on the La Mirada City Council since 1988, and serving his third term as mayor. He also serves as chairman of the Redevelopment Agency, has been actively involved in

service among school youth and service and civic groups. So, Your Honor, we thank you so much for coming. We appreciate all you're doing for our city and for our school, so that's welcome the Honorable Mayor Bob Chatner.

Mayor Chatner:

Good morning. I certainly wish all of my city conferences could begin with videos like this one. My compliments to the producers. It's a pleasure for me, as mayor of the city of La Mirada, to officially welcome you to our community. My hope is that you will enjoy your stay in La Mirada, and the friendships you make here are long lasting and strong. Your student missions conference is one of the nation's largest gatherings of its kind, and you can be very proud to participate. The city of La Mirada has long been proud to be associated with Biola University. Biola is well known throughout the world as a leader in higher education and its most positive impact on communities. Some of you may have seen a copy of our city newsletter, The La Mirada Living, which was mailed to every home in La Mirada this past week. The cover features Biola basketball coach and athletic director Dave Holmquist. Two years ago, Coach Holmquist became the youngest college basketball coach at any level to win 500 basketball games. I'm sure he's somewhat embarrassed by this attention, but he certainly deserves the recognition. Coach Holmquist is considered a role model, and as any good role model should do, he leads by example on the basketball court or in life.

Coach Holmquist teaches his players, and he would teach you also that it takes the same amount of effort to be successful not only on the basketball court, but in any area of life in your

education, your career, your marriage, your role as a parent, and in your spiritual life. I personally believe that I must lead by example. Coach Holmquist leads by example. Dr. Cook leads by example. Many people here lead by example. Now, if everyone at this mission's conference can lead by example, wouldn't that be something very special, extremely positive for our world? The examples of thought and actions learned at this mission's conference will be especially meaningful. It's influences such as these that will enable you, the students, alumni and faculty of Biola University, to become a more positive force in our world. During this conference, as you discuss the importance of missionary efforts in spreading the message of faith, I encourage you to open your hearts to the message of people such as Coach Holmquist and others here at Biola. By doing so, you will be better able to carry on the spirit and the traditions of this fine university. As always, it's a pleasure for me to be here at Biola.

I thank you for the invitation, and I wish you continued success in your journey ahead. And now over to David and Catfish. Thank you.

Catfish:

Real quick, we're going to do a couple of introductions for our worship band and our speaker this morning. We are privileged to have Lamont Hebert in his band Ten Shekel Shirt lead us in worship. They are part of a YWAM ministry in New Haven, Connecticut. Lamont's in his final stages of his second worship CD following the Dreams of God project that was done a couple of years ago. All the songs introduced during the conference will be on a CD that will be sold later on this week. So, we are privileged to have Ten Shekel Shirt here as they lead us in worship.

Costello:

One other quick introduction. Our speaker this morning is Mark Cahill. Mark Cahill is a speaker with Summit Ministries, which is out of Colorado. He's a native of Georgia, and we're very glad to have him here. Mark will be speaking today about evangelism, practical evangelism and how we can be motivated by Christ's love. Share Jesus Christ with other people.

Welcome, Lamont Hybrid and Ten Shekel Shirt

Lamont: I was leading worship at a conference a few years back, and somebody came up to me afterwards and said something that I was kind of taken back by. They said, I forgot you were there. And then I realized he just paid me the highest compliment a worship leader could ever get. The goal of us being up here is not to entertain you guys or tickle your ears. It's to encourage you to worship and inspire you to pray. So, let's stand up. Let's meet with God.

I think we're having technical difficulties with the words, so we'll try to do some ones that you guys know. If you don't just join along. In spirit.

Struck down but not destroy I'm blessed beyond the curse for its promise will endure straight so the sorrows may last forever.

You know, the first time I heard that song, I thought, man, the guy that wrote that song couldn't think of any other words to say. And then I realized that guy just simplified a life he imagined. If we walked around life saying, yes, Lord, yes, Lord. Yes, Lord. God whatever you say and I believe God has put his finger on a number of you when you were little and as you've been getting older about being called into ministry and I believe God is most glorified when we're satisfied in him when God is glorified and we can trade in our sorrows we can trade in our shame for the joy of the Lord and God we say yes to you God whatever you have for us God we trust you we believe that you love us more than we love ourselves god help us to walk through life saying yes to your still small voice god and God we're here to meet with you in this place come and meet with us.

[songs play]

open the eyes of my heart lo open the eyes of my heart forward open the eyes of my heart I want to see I wanna see I want want to see open the eyes of my heart open the eyes of my heart I want to see

open the eyes of my heart lord open the eyes of my heart I want to see what I want to see

you are holy holy holy holy holy holy you are holy holy holy I want you be there is.

God for you alone are holy and you allow us to come because of the sacrifice that was made for us you allow us to come into your holy presence god only by grace that we enter.

I will offer up my life spirit and truth blood as my worship to you in surrender I must give my every part Jesus why can't I give

you.

Deserve my every breath you deserve my.

Everywhere you play the great cause giving up your life because that even left on a cross Jesus what can't and I give so faithful a friend of loving a king baby what can be said what can be done?

Music. What can I do? What can I bring? What can I sing? I'm a real love.

Therefore, I urge you breath and view of God's mercy to offer your body to living sacrifices fully impeached and acceptable.

I will offer my life in spirit and truth pouring out the old as my worship to you.

Announcer:

I'd like to introduce for you now Ryan Keating as a new president and he'll be performing a drama before and after mark Cahill

Keating:

In my distress.

I called to the Lord and he answered me from the depths of hell I called for help and you listened to my cry you hurled me into the deep into the very heart of the seas and your current swirled about me all your waves and breakers crashed over me I said I've been banished from your sight yet I will look again toward Your holy temple. The engulfing waters were at my throat, the deep surrounded me. Seaweed was wrapped around my head to the roots of the mountains I sank down and the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O Lord, my God, when my life was ebbing away, I remembered You, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to Your holy temple. Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you what I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the Lord.

Cahill: Is this working? Can you hear me? Good morning.

Heavenly Father heavenly Father, I want your fire to fall on L.A. Father God, I want your fire to fall back on America. Father God, I want your fire to fall back on planet Earth. And Father God, I want a renewed passion for you unlike any other year I have been alive. I want a renewed passion for you. And Father God, I want a passion for the lost people in other countries on planet Earth. I want a passion to reach them with the truth. But, Father God, I want a passion for lost

people in America. I want a passion for lost people that I see every single day in Los Angeles. But a passion that's so burning inside of me, such an intense fire that, Father God, I cannot shut up about the best thing going in Los Angeles and that's your Son, Jesus Christ. And Father God, when that begins to happen, what a planet this is going to be to live on. What a place to be alive. And Father God, what a great time to be alive for you. We ask this in the sweetest name ever given the name of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

New Year's Eve 1999 think back two and a half months ago. New Year's Eve 1999 12 midnight question for you, where were you? Were you at a friend's house? Were you at a party? Were you hanging out downtown Los Angeles? Where were you? A little tougher question. What were you doing? Were you blowing one of those noise maker things at midnight? Were you kissing somebody at midnight? Were you toasting champagne, as many people do at midnight? What were you doing at the stroke of midnight? New Year's Eve 1999 I live in Atlanta, Georgia. And in Atlanta, Georgia, we have a place called Buckhead. It's the bar section of town in Atlanta, Georgia where we just had the killings recently with Ray Lewis, the football player, the Baltimore Ravens and stuff. And it's a wild little part of Atlanta, Georgia. I decided to go out witnessing that night on New Year's Eve. And I was praying that afternoon. I said, Father God, at the stroke of midnight I want to be talking to somebody about Jesus Christ at the stroke of midnight. Got out there. Got out there early that night. Was walk around having some wonderful conversations.

Got to talk to 25 people about Jesus Christ that night. Was talking with these four people. One girl from Emory University, just struggling with the fact of her friends not going to spend eternity with her in heaven. Got a chance to encourage, give her the truth. She's not even sure where she's at. Finished talking. Looked at my watch. It was 1156. I said, wait a minute. I got to find someone to talk with. Walked up to a couple, began a conversation. We're talking about Jesus Christ. All of a sudden, the first car horn goes off. The first little noisemaker goes off, and all of a sudden, a smile began to come across my face because I was sharing Jesus Christ with someone at the stroke of midnight. And here's why. Because I could not think of a better way to end 1999 or a better way to begin the year 2000 than talking to a lost person about Jesus Christ. What a way to end this past year. But, folks, what a way to begin this coming year, the year 2000. I was in Dallas, Texas, and I took some teenagers, a couple of 17-year olds out to a mall to do some witnessing that kind of hung with me for 30 minutes.

I kind of showed them easy ways to get into conversations. They took off one off on their own. We met back up for dinner that night. We're sitting down. We're having dinner, and one of the young men, Robbie, looks at me. He's 17 years old. He runs his own Bible study at his high school. He's studying Greek already at 17. This is one of those little pure holy kids. When you get around, you feel like Satan when you're around him. I mean, he's just one of those kids. He looked at me during dinner. He said, Mark, you know what he said? You can run all the Bible studies you want to. He says, can study all the. [End of Disc 1]

Cahill:

You want to, but when you share your faith with a lost person, he said, that's when the rubber meets the road. Question for you young people and adults, when is the last time your rubber met the road? When is the last time you took your Jesus to a lost person and shared Jesus Christ? And you know, if we popped up person by person and shared that, some of you would absolutely love that. But you know what?

Some of you would absolutely hate that if we did it person by person. But you know, the funny thing is, when I study the word of God, I am here for one very special reason to take the best thing going and give it to a lost in a dying world and tell folks it's time our rubber meets the road, is it not? We need some more rubber meeting the road. And then watch this world change back for Jesus Christ. I speak at summit ministries out in Colorado.

I was speaking out there, and I was leaving the next day, and I was heading out to the airport, and I was getting on an airplane, and they put a weight restriction on the plane. It was flying into bad weather. They had to put extra fuel on it, so they bumped some people off. So about 40 of us got bumped off. So, I was in line trying to redo my tickets.

Lady behind the counter was obviously having a tough day. I walked over. I said, how's your day going? She said, I've had better ones. I said, I can understand that.

People were not really happy. I said, guess what? She said, what? I said, I'm going to be the easiest customer you've had all day. She said, really?

She said, why? I said I am a born-again believer in Jesus Christ. I said, my God is much bigger than an airplane. I said, trust me on that. Her whole countenance changed. We got to work it out.

I got a chance to witness to her. It was a fantastic time. They couldn't get me back that day, so I had to go back to summit ministries. So, they came and picked me up. So, I went back to the camp.

I went back on the campgrounds, and I was walking towards the kitchen, and two young ladies that were at camp said, mark, can we chat with you? I said, sure, let's talk. So, we went in the kitchen and we sat down, and one girl said, mark, I'm so glad you're here. I'm so glad you're still here, because when you were talking yesterday during the talk you gave, it's the talk I'm going to give during the breakout section, she said, the spirit of God just dealt with me, just completely dealt with me. And I checked out of your talk, and I was just God was dealing with me.

I said, young lady, if the holy spirit deals with one of my talks, that check out, have a good time. And she said, and so I saw you this morning before you left and the spirit of God just touched my heart to come tell you something. But I saw these people chatting with you and I didn't want to interrupt. The spirit of God was telling me to go tell you this, but I saw you with people and she said, I am so glad you're still here at camp because this is what I wanted to tell you. I said, Whoa, whoa.

I said, Wait a minute, young lady. I said, you don't know something. What didn't she know? I wasn't supposed to be there. I was supposed to be on a plane going to Atlanta, Georgia.

I was supposed to be long gone by this time. I looked at her and I said, if the spirit of God ever hits you with something, what I say? Do it. Is it possible during Mission Conference 2000 the spirit of God is going to hit your heart with something? And are you honestly going to let a friend, some situation hold you back from what the spirit of God is going to hit you with? I beg not I beg he's got a bigger plan better than anyone else in my life's got for me.

Still can't believe this is what happened. This is what happened. A young lady was sitting next to her, she said, Mark, she said, I'm from Denver, Colorado. She said, my best friend goes to Columbine High School. And she said the Saturday before the school shootings she said, my friend was praying and she was intensely in prayer with God and God spoke to her heart and she said, I need you to speak with two people today and the God of this universe gave her two names.

You want to take a wild guess what those two names were? How about Eric Harris? And how about Dylan Klebold? And this was the Saturday before the shootings have been very easy to find them. This is the day they were making the bombs at Eric's house.

It would have been very easy to find him. The young lady got out of her prayer time and she was thinking about it and she was thinking about it and she decided I've got time. And four days later

every single one of us in this room now knows about Columbine High School. Folks do you understand what we may not have is we may not have time.

Do you understand that? That you have friends, you have relatives, you have strangers that today don't know the gospel of Jesus Christ. And I am worried about other things than my friends knowing Jesus Christ. If I know one thing by looking at my newspaper, time is very precious. We are running out of it.

My savior is one day closer coming back today than he was yesterday. Time is ticking just like the clock does in this gym during a basketball game, and as it ticks and as it ticks, my question to you is, what are you doing with your time? What are you doing with your time? Because we may not have all that much time, if you think about it.

I was in an airport, and I got in a conversation with this gentleman, and we were talking, and during the conversation, he told me he was a PK. Now, I didn't grow up in church because I didn't grow up in church some of you don't understand how great that worship is. I didn't do this as a young man. I just started doing this recently my life.

That's a lot of fun, is it not? Do not you enjoy that? I think the God of the universe enjoyed that. But one thing I finally learned is, you know what? The worship is a lot of fun to do inside these four walls.

But it's always so much more fun to worship God out on Redondo Beach. It's so much more fun to worship God out on Santa Monica Pier, where you're taking your faith to a lost and a very dying world. So, I was chatting with this gentleman. He told me he was a PK.

I didn't grow up in church. A PK, to me, is a place kicker. And he was six foot five, 280lbs. He was not a place kicker. I knew that right away.

He used to be an offensive lineman at Washington State, used to block for Jude Bledsoe up at Washington State. PK promise keeper. We know what a PK is, as some of you are. is a preacher's kid, we were talking? This guy had absolutely zero belief in God.

None. Zero. Be careful, folks. Are you praying for the preacher's kids at your church? Satan loves for those people to walk away from the God of this universe.

So, we were talking. He asked me a very interesting question. He said, why do you think you've got the right answer? How would you answer if someone asked you one day, why do you think you've got the right answer? Okay.

I said, well, actually, to me, it's very simple. I said, When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, when he conquered death, it set him apart from Muhammad, from Buddha, from Confucius, from all the other religious people that ever walked the planet. I figured he rose from dead. I can believe what he says. He says there's a God, there's a heaven or hell, and he's the only pathway to get to that heaven.

Because I was trying to find anyone that could predict their own death, predict they were getting out of the grave and pull that stunt off. Because, you know, if you can do that, you got to tad more power than I got. As a matter of fact, you got a lot more power than I got if you can do that. Okay, folks, have you ever seen the light bulb go off behind someone's eyes, folks the light bulb went off behind this big man's eyes.

He looked at me and said, I have never thought about that before in my life, folks, do you understand? When I walk out here and share my faith in Jesus Earth, I am backed up by a resurrection. I am backed up by an empty tomb. And you know, no one else on planet Earth, any other faith has that to back them up. And folks, once you know that, I do not have to fear one person out there.

As a matter of fact, they've got to fear me. They've got to fear you because you have Jesus Christ. And when we finally get the mindset, I don't have to fear Satan, but he must fear what us. And as soon as we know that, folks, los Angeles will not be that tough to take for Jesus Christ. But I've got to get the mindset that I've got the right answer, and I've got to make sure I stand up for that in a very lost, in a very dying world.

Think about that. I do a lot of prison ministry work. I was in a prison in Houston, Texas, and I walked into the segregation unit of the prison. In the segregation unit of a prison, people are in jail cells by themselves 23 hours a day. They get out for 1 hour a day for shower and recreation, okay?

They are caged animals and nothing less. It's a wild scene in this prison. Very loud part of the prison, because you have to yell at each other to talk and stuff like that. So, I walked up to this one cell, and you see Mayberry RFD with the poles or the steel poles. It wasn't like that.

It was iron mesh just like that. You can barely see the person through there to shake a hand you stick your finger and they grab your finger and move it up and down. It's a wild little place.

Okay?

So, I began talking with this one gentleman, 20 years old. He was in the Mexican Mafia. Okay?

Now, if you know anything about street gangs, the Mexican Mafia is absolutely one of the meanest, toughest street gangs in the world today. They are tough as bones.

It's crazy stuff. They kill people like it's nothing, okay? So, we were sitting there and we were chatting and stuff like that, and he told me he was leaving the Mexican Mafia. Now, if you leave the Mexican Mafia, is there a penalty that goes with that? There's a huge penalty that goes with it.

And what is it? It's called death. Okay? So, I asked this by the way, I'm crazy. I like to chat with people.

I said, By I said, does anyone in here want to kill you? He said, yeah. He starts pointing around some different cells. Then he goes he goes, Shh. He said, the guy in the next cell wants to kill me.

I said, the guy in the next cell wants to kill you. And I said, oh, this is Christ. I need to share Christ with this guy because he's about to die, so I need to share with him and I tell you what. This young man, he was one big tattoo from his neck down to his feet.

And let me tell you something. This guy knew more of the word of God than I did. He had to have grown up in church, but look where he ended up. He had the truth, but he walked away from it. Young people, you've got the truth.

Are you going to walk to it? Are you going to walk away from it? So, I was chatting with him, but I really didn't want to talk with him. Who do I want to talk with? I wanted to meet me a hitman.

I've never met me a hitman before. I said, this has got to be interesting. Okay. I walked over to the next cell. There was a 21-year-old guy, blonde, crew cut, looked like anyone you see on a college campus in America today.

Began chatting with him, and I said, Juan, during the conversation, I said, Juan, a question for you. What is the worst thing you've ever done in your life? I said, you don't have to tell me.

What's the worst thing you've ever done in your life? I asked that question many times to people

who I know are tough people, because many of those people think they've done something so bad that God cannot what, forgive them.

Is that a true statement? That's one more lie straight from the pits of hell. We got to work them through that sometimes. He said, I don't have to tell you. I said, Juan, you don't have to tell me.

He said, Mark, I'm actually thinking about doing something worse than I've ever done before in my life. What do you think about doing killing the guy in the next cell? Okay, I was one up on him. He didn't know that. Okay?

We were using the four spiritual laws by Campus Crusade for Christ that kind of folded out into a poster. So, I was kind of walking through it with Juan. Got to the point. Would you like to commit your life to Jesus Christ? Juan, would you like to commit your life to Jesus Christ?

He said yes, I do. Well, I didn't believe Juan, so I folded the little sheet back up. I said, Juan, wait a minute, man. Wait a minute. I said, you're not ready to get serious about this, man.

I'm talking about committing your life to Jesus Christ where he is your savior and nothing else. Number one above everything else. I said, Juan. I don't know. Are you ready for this?

He said, let me tell you something, Mark. He said, I am sick and I am tired of my life. My life is going nowhere fast. And the only thing that's going to change my life is a relationship with Jesus Christ, and I want that right now. I folded my little paper back out.

I decided if a hit man wants to accept Christ, you let a hitman accept Jesus Christ. It's pretty simple to me. We walked through the prayer and stuff, and all of a sudden Juan began speaking. And all of a sudden, he just began talking. I said, wait a minute.

That's James, chapter two. He kept talking. I said, Wait a minute, that's Romans, chapter eight. I said, how do you know these verses? He said?

I don't know. They just keep coming to me. It's one of the wildest scenes I've ever seen in my life. Okay, so we began talking. He said, you wouldn't believe what I have in the cell, Mark.

I said, what do you have in the cell, Juan? He said, Well, I have a hit list. I said, you have a hit list? What do you mean you have a hit list? He said, Well, I have a list in here of people that the Mexican Mafia is going to kill.

I said, you have a hit list? I said, Jan. I said, well, first of all, you're now a born-again believer in Jesus Christ. You no longer need this list once you hand me that list. So, he hands me a list of over 70 names of people in the Mexican Mafia that they're going to kill.

I said, One, these are people that are leaving the gang you're going to kill. He said, well, some were leaving the gang, he said some we tried to extort money from. They wouldn't pay us, so we are going to kill them. Now, someone gave me an idea. I went ahead and sent tract booklets to everybody on the list because

They're about to die. So, I figured they better get the information about Jesus pretty quick. No one wrote me back, so I'm not sure exactly what occurred, but here's a hit list of 75 people that the Mexican Mafia is going to kill. It was not just a few weeks later that I was praying, and the God of this universe just drilled my heart. It said something so simple.

He said, Mark, he said, Are you on Satan's hit list? Is your life so radically sold out for my son Jesus Christ? Is your worship so pure and so solid? Is your evangelism so strong? Do your prayers reach me in heaven that you are on his hit list that he hates the fact that you actually woke up today?

Question for you are you on Satan's hit list? Are you on Satan's hit list that your life is so given to Jesus Christ that you are more worried about Jesus? You are more worried about where La is going to spend eternity, or you're more worried about March Madness? There're so many Christian college people. I've been in the NCAA tournament it's good.

It's not that good. Let me go ahead and tell you. Are you more worried about your GPA than where La is going to spend eternity? Are you on Satan's hit list? If not, why not?

Question for Biola. Are you on Satan's hit list? Is this campus so focused? I'm getting a feeling it is so focused on Jesus Christ and so focused on lost that this university is on Satan that Satan can't wait to mess with faculty and professors and presidents because this university is so rock solid for Jesus Christ. Or is it like some Christian universities I speak at?

As one of my students was telling me one day how they're teaching him that Jesus did not physically, bodily rise from the dead. What type is this? Are you on Satan's hit list? If not, why not? Because I'm here to tell you there's only one way to live the Christian life, and that's getting on his hit list that he hates.

Every single day that you wake up, a teenage boy heard me speak of something. He wrote me a letter. He said, Mark, let me tell you something. Not only am I going to get on Satan's hit list, but he's going to highlight my name. Think about that.

Think about that. And you know what? What a thing to be to have your name highlighted on Satan's hit list. My question is your name on his hit list? If not, why not?

But I'll guarantee you, if you'll put it on there, you're about to have one thrilling ride through this lifetime, aren't you not? It's going to be a little bit crazy, but you're going to have a thrilling ride through this lifetime. But let me tell you something. When you finally check out of this life and walk through those gates into heaven, you'll be so glad you made it your goal to get on his hit list. Tips Plaza Atlanta, Georgia it's one of the malls in Atlanta, a very wealthy mall.

Very well to do, lots of money. Everyone's got in there is their money, okay? You go to that mall to go witnessing, you very rarely meet Christians. I'm sitting down on a bench in the mall talking with this young man, one-week graduate from the University of Georgia. Absolutely no belief in God.

None. We're having a conversation. Very interesting. Having a lot of great questions. But you know what?

There're some great answers. There are great questions, are they not? That's why I love the word of God. Some great answers to it. So, we're talking.

All of a sudden, his parents come out and stand behind. I'm like, oh, no, this is not going to go well. A lot of parents like when you're talking to their kids, even though he's 23 years old, they don't like that stuff, right? So, they start listening to the conversation. They hear it's about Jesus Christ.

The parents stand behind them, thumbs up and they start bowing their head, praying they're born again believers and their son's not. They are so enthralled. Someone is sharing Jesus Christ with their son. Okay? It was right before Christmas time, and Colby looked at me, the young man, he said, Mark, I look around this mall and he said, all I see are people shopping and getting ready for the holidays.

I said, Colby, that's interesting, because when I look around this mall, I said, all eyes see your people dying and going to heaven or dying and going to hell. I said, Colby, until you commit your life to Jesus Christ and he lifts the veil from your eyes, you cannot see people any differently than that. Question for you, Biola. How do you see people? How do you see people?

Every time I'm on a plane flight and I'm sitting next to somebody, that gentleman or that lady is dying and going to heaven or dying and going to hell, I have to find out one piece of information to find out their eternal destination. If they're a believer, I'm going to encourage and challenge them. If they're a lost person, I'm going to give them the best piece of information they've ever been given in their entire life. How do you look at people? See folks, when you start looking at people as you walk through this town as either going to heaven or going to hell, it will change your entire outlook on your life, but it will get you out of that comfort zone where you're going to stand, and you are going to stand, and you are going to stand for Jesus Christ.

And folks, you're about to have fun. Because as I travel and I know we got some adults here, and I say it when I'm in front of adults, as I travel and speak to adult things and to young people, I do a lot of work with teenagers and college people. The most rock-solid sold-out group for witnessing today. Who is it, old people or young people? It's young people, and it's not even close.

It is not even close. There was a groundswell beginning to happen. There's a fire begin to be lit in some teenage and college people that I'm telling you is beginning to sweep into a lot of adults. I know I have parents of students I used to teach that share their faith in Jesus Christ because their kids began to share their faith in Jesus Christ. And folks, when that fire begins to move and that groundswell begins to happen, nothing can stop it.

Do you understand me? And that's the choice you're going to have to make at Biola. Are we just going to be another Christian college? Are we going to be the Christian college in America that's going to decide to make that stand and never step back? Think about that, okay?

If you have your Bibles, Matthew, chapter nine, if you don't, it's okay. I'll just read it out.

Matthew nine, verse 35. And Jesus went about all the cities, village, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness, every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them.

Question for you, Biola, do you have compassion for lost people? Do you just love lost people so much? You know what, folks? I love coming to Christian events, but I can't wait to get out of a place like this. And I'm telling you, and I love to go hang out with someone.

I have such a compassion for lost people. They are some of the most interesting, honest people I've ever met in my life. Go hang out with some lost people. You'll have a compassion for them. But when they see that compassion, does that not affect their heart, folks?

That affects their heart, does it not? Think about that. You must have compassion for lost people, because they were weary and scattered like sheep, having no shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, the harvest truly is plentiful, but what the laborers, their workers are few. God's asking one simple question this morning and for the rest of your life, can I get 3000 more people to be laborers for Jesus Christ?

That's all he's asking. Would you make your stand? Would you get into the game? Would you be whether it's in Africa, whether it's in La, whether it's in Atlanta, would you get in the game and share your faith in Jesus Christ? That's all he's asking.

Because folks, if you study anything about what's happening in the world today, all Satan is trying to do is take believers off the planet so there's less workers in the field. School Shooting Kentucky shot up a prayer group, columbine High School minimum. Nine of the 12 uh 13 people that were killed. Besides the two gunmen believers in Jesus Christ shooting at Wedgewood Baptist Church. Go right into youth and kill Christians.

Why? Satan was trying to take the people that are standing up off the earth. And let me tell you something, every single time a strong believer dies, we should have ten more people ready to fill that spot. We ought to have 3000 people ready to fill that spot. And folks, when we begin to do that and go out into the harvest, I was just speaking in farm country, they know one simple thing the more hands you have in the field during harvest time, the more you'll reap the harvest every single time.

And God knows the exact same thing. That's why he used it that way. Matthew, chapter 18, verse eleven. Sitting on my couch one summer afternoon, getting ready to go out to witness, and I read this verse and a whole new meaning to me. Matthew 18:11.

For the Son of Man, Jesus speaking, has come to seek and save that which is what lost. And I sat there and I was reading this verse on my couch and I was praying. And you know what hit me? Something so simple. If it's good enough for Jesus, it ought to be.

What? Good enough for me. If it's good enough for Jesus to walk around planet Earth and talk to lost people about himself and his God why isn't it good enough for me to walk out of here and do exactly the same thing? Is it good enough for you, Biola is it good enough for you to walk out of this gym decide I'm going to make that stand for Jesus Christ? And it hit me.

If it's good enough for him, you know what? It is definitely good enough for me. Okay. Matthew, chapter 7 verse 13. Enter by the narrow gate.

For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who go in by it because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life and there are few who find it. Why does the path that leads toward destruction and many are on it narrow as it leads towards heaven and few find? A question for you in Los Angeles today. Do we have more people dying and going to heaven or dying and going to hell? Speak to me, please.

Which one? Speak to me. Which one? Hell. I got a question for you.

Does that bother you? But the ultimate question is does that bother you enough to do something about it? If it does not bother you enough to talk with somebody about Jesus Christ, listen to me. It does not bother you. It absolutely does not bother you.

But if you'll talk to him, it will bother you enough to do something about it. I played college basketball at Auburn University down in Alabama. When I was at school there my roommate on road trips with someone by the name of Charles Barkley, the famous basketball player. We've been friends for 17, 18 years now hang out and do things just like you do. Recently we were having lunch together.

There were six people at the lunchroom table. Next you know, the whole table was talking about Jesus Christ. I'm not sure happened. Maybe I said something and we're off and talking. All of a sudden, Charles Barkley looks across the table.

My name is Mark. And he said, Mark is the only friend that I've got that's into this whole God and religion thing. Now, how does Charles Barkley know I'm into it? Because what I talk about it last four times we've been together or telephone conversations we've talked about Jesus Christ. You don't think of Charles Barkley would talk about it?

I'd beg to differ. Life didn't satisfy the way he thought it was going to. Life did not satisfy the way he thought it was going to. He knows I'm into it because I talk about it. Why I want to see him in heaven.

Charles Barkley is a big man. He could break me in half extremely easily if he's so desired.

Okay? He picked me up one time and threw me on his shoulder.

I'm a pretty big guy myself. He just picked me up. He's a big man, but he appreciates the fact that I take the time to share with him. Okay? But he said, I'm the only friend you know what, you might be the only friend that someone has that's into this God and religion thing.

And God has strategically put you in their pathway so you will be the one that's going to drop that seed that God can take that seed and make it grow. And we have a newfound believer in Jesus Christ. Don't forget that we went and hit some golf balls that day. We talked a bit more about Jesus. And I said, Charles, got to be honest, man.

I said, this is the most open I've seen you to the topic of Jesus Christ. He said, Mark. He said, when you get a little bit older and your career starts winding down, he said, you begin to think about these things. I'm like, oh, yes you do, don't you Charles? Go back to his house we're

In his kitchen. Charles walked out. His younger brother was in there. I still can't believe this is what happened. This is what happened.

His younger brother was there and he said, Mark he said, you know I had a heart attack a couple of months earlier. I said, Darryl, I heard about that. He said, Well, I saw something. I said you saw something. I said, what do you mean you saw something?

You heard about near death experiences, white lights and tunnels and things that many people see? Mark, he flatlined. He was dead 8 seconds on an operating table. He was clinically dead. He said, Mark.

He said, I was laying on the operating, all of a sudden, my soul left out of my body. He said, Mark, I could look down and see it on the operating table and said, Mark, all of a sudden, my soul took off on a journey. He said, Mark, all of a sudden, I saw trees on fire ground smoldering around the trees. He said, Mark, I saw a lake of fire in front of me. I said, Daryl, what did you see?

He said I saw hell. I said, Daryl, you saw hell? I said, if you would have died, where are you going? He said, I was going to hell. I said, Daryl, do you want to go to hell?

He said, Absolutely not. I said, Daryl, do you want to go to heaven? He said yes, I do. I said, Daryl, do you know what it takes to get to heaven? He said yes, I do.

Commit my heart and my life to Jesus Christ. Darrell, now, knowing you're going to die and go to hell, are you ready today to commit your heart and your life to Jesus Christ. What did he say? No. I said, Darryl.

Why not? Same answer I give from everybody. He said, Mark, I like the things of the world. More than I like the things of God.

His drug of choice is cocaine. He'd rather play with the ladies than be right with God. One of the saddest conversations I've had in my life. I just saw him a couple of weeks ago. We've continued the conversation.

He told me, he said, Mark, what I saw was no dream. It was more real than this stage. It was more real than this gym. Mark, it was so vivid and real. I got a question for you Biola.

Nod your head if you have any friends right now in your life that are going to see a lake of fire when they die. Nod your head if you have any friends. I didn't become a Christian until I was 25 years old. I got a lot of friends that are going to see it. But that bothers me.

That bothers me. But the question is, does it bother you enough to do something about it? Does it bother you enough to do something about it if you won \$15 million in the lottery? \$15 million in the lottery. And I know a good Christian doesn't play the lottery.

So, let's say you won \$15 million in American Family Publishers Clearing Out Sweepstakes or whatever that thing is, okay? You won \$15 million, okay? Would you tell anybody? Would you tell anybody, folks? You tell everybody.

You'd be go running down the hallway, I can pay my bills. I won 15 million. You can't borrow anything, but I won 15 million. You'd be telling everybody that you won \$15 million. Guess what, y'all?

I won the lottery. I won the lottery. I had a one-way ticket to hell canceled by the blood of Jesus Christ, I won the lottery. I deserve hell more than anybody in this gym. And you know what?

I don't get it. And I'm still doing backflips over that. That's amazing to me. But yet if I would run down Santa Monica Boulevard and talk about 15 million measly dollars, why wouldn't I shout from every rooftop, from every beach that I've won the lottery? And that name is Jesus, is it not?

That name is Jesus. If you've committed, you've won the lottery. But the question is, who are you going to tell that you've won the lottery? If your light for Christ was a bit lighter and we took your light for Christ and put it in a closet, we took your BIC lighter, put it out at twelve noon on a sunny day today, how bright would your light for Christ be? How bright?

Not too bright. Let's say we took your Bick lighter, went out at twelve midnight, put your Bic lighter out there for Christ. How bright would your light be? Brighter. Okay, let's say we took your Bic lighter and put it in a closet.

Took all the darkness in all the universe and put it in the closet? Could all the darkness in all the universe put out that light? No. Matter of fact, the more darkness there is, what? The brighter your light shines?

What's the Bible say? The Bible calls sin darkness. That is absolutely the best description of sin I have ever heard in my life. I didn't commit my life to Christ until I was 25.

I lived in complete, utter darkness, okay? It's a great description of sin. Jesus Christ is called the what? The light of the world. And guess what, folks?

You cannot even know if you have light unless you take it to what? Darkness. I'm speaking in Fresno last week. He's the graduate of Biola University, the youth pastor, the church I'm speaking at. And he said the biggest struggle I had in college was I stayed with all my Christian friends, what?

All the time. And he said I would never take my light to where? The darkness to find out what I've got. Think about this. This morning when this room was dark, when you turn the light on, what happens to the darkness? Gone instantly, because light puts out darkness.

If this was nighttime and you had windows and shades and you pulled the shades up, would the darkness come in or would the lights go out? What would happen? Light we've got. Light, by definition, attacks darkness folks it's time we take our light and attack darkness with it. Is it time we take our light out to the streets and out to the malls and attack the darkness with that?

Is it time to do that? Because listen, folks, I go to South Beach in Miami every year. South beach is the year 2000's version of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is the most wild little place you've ever been in your life if you've never been to South Beach.

It is wild. I have Christians all the time. They will never go there. They will never go there. I said, why won't you go there?

And people like, got guns and knives, I said, Guns? I said, the kind with bullets. I said, and their eyes would get big. I said, what are you worried about? What, they're going to shoot me and kill me and send me to heaven?

Is that what they're going to do tonight? But yet, when you think about it, the only problem is it's so dark down there. But the darkness be gone if we take what our light and take it to the is it time we take our light to the darkness? Because once you get that mindset that I have to fear nothing Satan has to offer, he's got to fear me. I've got Jesus Christ.

He's got to fear you. You've got Jesus Christ. And when you get that mindset, guess what? Your life is about to be so radically different that absolutely nothing can stop you on planet Earth.

Okay?

Think about that. Star basketball player at Baylor University came to hear me speak. He said, I came to your talk just to hear this one thing. And this is what I said. I said, I can guarantee you one thing that you can't do in heaven that you can do down here. You can worship God in heaven.

You can praise God in heaven. You can sing songs to God in heaven. You can read your Bible, the bible's supposed to be in heaven, okay? But one thing you can't do in heaven that you can do down here is share your faith with a non-believer, okay? Why?

Everyone in heaven is a believer. Do you know from the day you die to the end of eternity, and there is no end of eternity, you'll never, ever, ever be able to share your faith with a lost person again? If that's true, you know it's true. Shouldn't that be one of the high callings of our life is to reach out to all these lost people.

Do you understand? When you take your last breath, you're never going to talk to a lost person again. Think about that, okay? That is a heavy piece of truth I got hit with about four years ago that I had never realized as a believer in Jesus Christ. I don't say this in a cocky way.

This is just a true statement. I got a four-year college basketball scholarship for one very simple reason. I can take that orange ball and I can put it in that goal. That's one thing I can do well in a basketball court. Why can I shoot a ball well?

Why? Well, you're born with that talent. No, I'm born with athletic talent. I'll give you that much. Okay?

Why can I shoot a ball well, practice. Practice. I spent hours in gyms, hours out on streets, hours in my driveway, at my parents' house. But you know what?

The more you practice, guess what? The better you get at it. Questions for you. By the way, if I can't witness out there, and I can only witness down here, what's the only way we're going to be able to get good at it? Practice.

Is it time to start practicing again? Is it time to start getting back in the game and practicing? Is it time that we can do that? My sister led someone to Jesus Christ the other day at the drive through window at a McDonald's. My sister, I saw her there.

I said, Jill, teach me, teach me. How do you do this? I was like, what? She had her two kids in the car seats behind her. She was loving the conversation so much.

She went back around, went through the drive thru one more time to continue the conversation with the girl, and that girl is now in church and serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Think about that. Because she decided, I've got to practice, and if I'm going to get good at I've got to practice. Recently I got to one on one talk to Michael Jordan about Jesus Christ. One on one we talked about.

I'm going to tell you the story at the breakout session tomorrow. I don't have time for it. When I walked up to him and got in the conversation, question for you was I nervous? Was I nervous? I was sweating bullets.

I was nervous, man. I was nervous. But don't we get nervous sometimes? But is nervousness going to stop us. Biola, we have the only answer that's going to change this country.

And I got nervous before the big tests in college. I still took the test when Coach, we go to Rup Arena in Kentucky, 24,000 people. You go in the game. And Coach said, Mark, why don't you go in the game? You think you're nervous?

You're nervous. Coach, my stomach's rumbling uh I'm a little tight. Put John and I'll go in next week coach, do you say that to Coach when he says, go in the game? No, you're ripping your sweats off.

You're ripping other people's sweats off. You're going in the game. You're going for it. You're nervous, but you still go for it. Guess what, y'all?

We might be nervous when we share our faith today, but you know what? We need to go for it, because we have the only answer that's going to change this country. Okay? I'll end with this. I was going back to one of my high school reunions, and I was going back to my five-year high school reunion.

And when you go to one-year high school reunions, you're going to pull out your yearbook, okay? What's the one thing you're going to want to check in your yearbook? What are you going to check? Names and faces. Okay.

Because what you want to do when you go back to your high school reading is not forget people, okay? When you're tall like me, everyone's going to remember you, okay? But you're not going to remember, so you won't be looking for names. You're going to remember names and faces. So, I was looking at this yearbook from back in a long time ago, and I was looking at these pictures, and so I was trying to get names and faces.

Names and faces. Five-year high school reunion got to the end of the senior section, and there was something called a senior directory. I was like, what is this? And so, I looked at it, and everyone had a name. Then.

It had the little things you accomplished, little things that said that you did. But then every senior in my public-school class got to put a senior quote in there. Okay? Oh, well, that's interesting. Let me read these things.

And some of them were very funny. Some of them were very intellectual, some were sexual. But then I got my highlighter out. I started highlighting. And all these people in my 330-person graduating class, Stone Mountain High School all put a quote from one book or about one thing.

And what was that book? It was called the Bible. But out of all you people that put that quote in there about the Bible, what's the one thing you never did with me in high school? What did you never do? Not one time did you take the chance to share your faith with me?

Can I ask you a question? Why not? Why not? Did you not want to see me in heaven? Or you had fun watching me play basketball on Friday night?

You had a good time watching me throwing up at Tracy Sole's house because I was so drunk? That was funny to you, and I was a real funny guy. I could make you laugh just really easily. You liked hanging with me, didn't you want to hang out with me in heaven?

Why wouldn't you share your faith with me in heaven? Why wouldn't you share your faith with me so I could go to heaven with you? And I'll be honest with you Christians. Here, take this in the right spirit, it's people like you that say you've got Jesus Christ and that never share it's people like you that just absolutely tick me off. You swear to the high heavens you've got the right answer, but you just wouldn't tell me, would you?

17 years old, car accident. Head on collision. I ate the windshield. I should have died that day. I walked out of that car.

You don't walk out of those. I walked out of it. God had a plan for my life, you know I should have died that day. And you still wouldn't step out of your comfort zone and share your faith.

Between the five-year high school reunion, the ten-year high school reunion, I found somebody. Or let's just say he found me. What was his name? His name was Jesus. His name was Jesus.

Went back to my ten-year high school reunion. was witnessing at the high school reunion? Reunion was over with. We were in a hotel room 02:00 in the morning. Eight people in the hotel room.

I began witnessing with a couple of friends that night. All of a sudden, one of the girls went to the hotel room drawer, pulled out the Gideon's Bible. She was witnessing to one half of the room. I was witnessing to the other half. Room one solid.

Our 02:00 or 03:00 the morning. We were having a blast. It was unbelievable. Okay, got addresses for 220 people in my graduating class. I wrote a letter to every single person in my graduating class sharing one very simple thing.

And what did I share with every single person my graduating class? Jesus Christ and what he had done in my life. Another time I sent tract books another time I sent another letter. I sent out 660 pieces of mail and information to my friends in my graduating class because I decided that when they die they are never going to stand in front of God and say, mark never told them how to get to heaven.

They are never going to say that. I'm not going to have that hanging over me. As Ezekiel says, that blood will not be on my hands. Question for you, do you have a friend, a family member, right now that can die and stand in front of God and say, you've never told them that? You've never told them?

And folks, I have decided that they are going to hear it from my lips.

They are going to hear it from my actions, they are going to hear it from my heart, because I have decided. And I looked at my brother one time and said, mike, you're going to go to hell over my dead body. He's still not a believer. But my brother Mike is going to be coming to heaven soon.

My mom just committed her life to Jesus Christ one year ago. My dad's lost and dying, going to hell, but he's still alive. There's still hope, is there not?

Who today could take their last breath and say, you've never told him? And don't ever forget my Bible says today is what, the day of salvation. Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for Mission Conference 2000.

Father God, I am praying not for just the young people, not just for the faculty, but for me also, Father God, that when I walk out of here and I get on my plane and go back home, that I cannot be the same. That your spirit is going to touch me in such a heavy, beautiful way, that I cannot be the same.

Father God, thanks for loving each person in here, whether they share their faith or not. Thank you for loving them just as they are. Thank you for loving Biola just as it is. But Father God, you love us so much. You don't want to leave us just as we are.

You want us looking just like your son Jesus and taking that name to a very lost, and a very dying world. And Father God, we ask this in the name that changed our lives, the only name worth worshiping and praising as we did today, father God, the only name worth sharing with lost people, father God, the only name worth living for. And Father God, as your son knows, the only name worth dying for, the name of your son, Jesus. Jesus. Jesus.

Jesus. Amen.