

Dedication of the New Sanitarium

#0567

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 1, 1971

[Special music]

[Brother Atherton] Wasn't that beautiful?

We'd like to welcome you today, friends of Wildwood, to the dedication of our new sanitarium and hospital building. We that are a part of this institution, a part of this group, to us, this is really a special day. There have been hours when we've been tempted to wonder if it would ever really happen. But today, it's a reality.

As we look at these walls and these halls and this roof above our heads, we are convinced that we didn't do it in our own strength. We've had more than human help. We're a small group that built this beautiful little hospital, and we have been conscious of the fact that we've had divine help. For this, we are greatly thankful.

As we've watched it grow, we have realized that we've had divine helpers walking these halls, and we know that this building is a miracle, just as the beautiful trees that you see out here growing on the hillside, each of those is a miracle. We don't think of it as we see them grow, but really, it is a miracle, isn't it?

And Yvonne Pratt now, one of the students here in our medical missionary training program, is going to sing for us a beautiful song entitled, "Trees."

Here on this campus of 600 acres, we operate a medical missionary training program in which we train our young people to do self-sacrificing service for their fellow men, not only in the United States, in the great cities of this country and in the dark backward areas, but in places across the seas, in Africa, south of the border and many other areas students from Wildwood are serving.

A group of them have just sung for you, "Grow and Wait," and now we invite you to listen as Yvonne Pratt sings "Trees."

"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,

And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.
"Trees" by Joyce Kilmer.

[Brother Atherton] Thank you, Yvonne.

To our minds here at Wildwood, the beauties of nature all around us, the skies, the mountains, the trees, these things are so much a part of the practice of the healing arts that we recognize the building itself, with its rooms and its halls and its corridors, and nature as one in the healing of the sick body and the mind and the soul.

These walls and these halls and these corridors we've come to dedicate today are dedicated to the service of the healing arts, as the trails were dedicated long ago.

David is going to give us now a poem entitled, "These Walls."

"Lord, come and walk these corridors,
And watch o'er every bed,
And may the lonely heart be thrilled
To hear Thy stately tread.

And may we know the healing touch
Of Him Who long ago
Beside the Sea of Galilee,
The love of God did show.

And may these hills, the sky, the trees,
The trails we often tread,
The mountain crest, the waterfall,
The mountain where earth and sky are wed,
And all the beauty that we know
Portray the love of God
To him who gropes in loneliness.

And may he find within these walls
The precious boon of health,
Elastic step, the glow of
Nature's hidden wealth.

And may he in our faces see
A precious glimpse of heaven's love,
And may it draw him closer, Lord,
To Thee and to the realms above.

And so, these walls of brick and steel,
This roof above our heads,
These corridors, these halls,
These rooms, these lamps, these beds, these chairs,

We dedicate them all to Thee,
That those in loneliness
May come, the tired, the ill, the sick at heart
May come and Thou canst bless."
"These Walls," Author unknown.

[Brother Atherton] If you have never walked these trails of beauty here at Wildwood, if you've never wandered by the lake, or climbed one of these high mountains, if you've never seen the beauty of a sunrise over Wildwood as seen from Inspiration Point high on the trails, if you've never seen springtime burst in its glory, or the stately summer clouds sailing the blue heavens, if you've never seen the autumn leaves paint this area with splendor, if you've never experienced these wonderful thrills, then you've never really gotten the feel of Wildwood.

Listen now, as the girls sing the "Trails of Wildwood."

"In a valley, peaceful valley, known as Wildwood,
There I learned to walk and talk with nature's God;
There I learned to know the joy of sweet communion
As the winding mountain trails alone I trod.

Refrain:

O come and walk the trails of beauty through the wildwood,
Wander by the lake, or climb the mountain high;
See the splendor of a sunrise over Wildwood;
Hear His whispered voice, whose hand stretched out the sky.

As I walked beside the lake before the sunrise;
And I watched the dawning bathe the mountain's height,
Jesus whispered to my heart, 'I am the Sunrise,'
And the Dawning that will fill your soul with light.'

Refrain.

Jesus speaks when springtime bursts in all her glory;
When the stately clouds of summer sail the blue;
And when autumn leaves with splendor paint the wildwood.

In the wildwood, Jesus' voice will speak to you.
Refrain."

"Trails of Wildwood" by Warren Wilson.

[Brother Atherton] I'm thankful for the beauties of nature, aren't you? We have these beautiful trails that go clear to the top of the mountain over there. This is what the girls are singing about. Maybe you'd like to walk these trails sometime. We'd like to invite you. Find out what it's like to hike these trails here at Wildwood.

Our speaker today, Mr. W. D. Frazee, is president and founder of Wildwood. He's well acquainted with these mountain trails because his own hands have hacked many of them out of the woods. Perhaps no other person has had such a long and intimate acquaintance with the work here at Wildwood. He's been here since its very beginning. He probably knows more of what Wildwood means, what its history, and what its goals are than any other person. For this reason, we felt that it was fitting and proper that Mr. Frazee should have our dedicatory address today.

We'll introduce him now to you.

Mr. Frazee.

[Elder Frazee] As I think back over the last 30 years, I'm very conscious of the fact that there are many people who have had a part in the establishing of this institution. And if I should start to call the roll this afternoon and tell you just a little about the people (some of whom are now sleeping, others are here today) who have made this institution possible, we could have a meeting as long as Paul had at Troas.

But I thank the Lord that the dear people who *have* labored and *are* laboring to carry on this work, their names are written in heaven. And we are met here this afternoon not to do honor to any human being, but to give glory to God, for Whose sake this work is carried on and Who has made it possible.

The story of this place from its beginning to the present hour is a story of miracles, of venturing in faith, getting out on a limb with God, and then seeing God work miracles. Some of you have heard that old proverb that the Lord takes care of fools and children. And when you are some of both, God has to do something. And He *does* do something, friends.

It was a blown gasket in an automobile that led to the finding of this location. And coming down decades later, it was an airplane trip that I missed coming out of Chicago to Cincinnati on a cold winter night when the snow was piled up on the Chicago runway, that led in God's providence to my meeting a good friend, who helped us provide the carpets that you've been walking on this afternoon. And in between those two things lie nearly 30 years, and everyone has been a year of miracles.

So, you see why I say this afternoon, and rather than calling the roster of all the

individuals who have made this place possible, we just want to dedicate this hour to the praise and glory of our God. What do you say? That's right. Amen.

I do want to thank all of you who are here this afternoon for coming to rejoice with us in this occasion. It multiplies our happiness to see you all here and to have you rejoice with us. It seems to me this afternoon that I have a little foretaste of that wonderful day of rejoicing when the dear Savior shall take us all home to the New Jerusalem, the place that He's been preparing for us. May we all be there. What do you say? Amen. The Lord grant it for every one of us.

I want to thank all of you who have had a part in making this place possible by praying for us. I want to thank the men who have come at different times to donate labor. I want to thank those who have given of their money. You see an institution here, and as you walk through its halls, you know that it's cost a good deal of money. May I tell you that we haven't had to borrow one dollar at the bank to finance this institution? May I tell you that there is not one dollar of federal money, state money, or any government institution represented in this building?

This building is made possible through the gifts and loans of friends of this work whose hearts God has touched. And some of you are here this afternoon, and I want to thank you. The continuance of this work will be made possible by the same generosity as God moves upon human hearts.

This afternoon for a few minutes, it's my privilege to share with you the philosophy that is back of this building, for a dream like this does not come without some motivation. The motivation is found in this black-covered Book that you all love and reverence, God's Holy Word. The inspiration for this work comes in the life of the One that this Book reveals, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. David Livingston, the great pioneer missionary to the dark continent, once said that God had only one Son, and He made Him a medical missionary. Was he right? Yes. And we're trying, with footsteps that sometimes falter, to walk in the path that He opened up.

In the 10th chapter of John's Gospel, I read His words:

"All that ever came before Me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them... The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly" John 10:8, 10.

Our Lord here, as it were, draws back the curtain that separates us from the unseen world. He shows the two great minds that are back of all we see in nature and in human experience. On the one hand, the Devil, the enemy of God and man is seeking to break down, to cause disease, suffering, death. But Jesus says:

“...I am the good Shepherd...” John 10:11.

“...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” John 10:10.

And so, my friends, believing the words of the Savior, I have no question but what every agency in this world that is seeking to tear down the life processes is inspired by the Devil. I don't blame God for the human suffering that we see all over this planet.

“...An enemy hath done this...” Matthew 13:28.

But oh, I thank God that all through nature, and especially in the human body, we discern precious evidences of a providence that is looking after us and is working on the side of *life* instead of death, that is seeking to heal instead of to destroy. And so, God is working with every agency in this world that is seeking sincerely to lift the level of human living.

It is with God, then, that we seek to cooperate in the healing of the sick, the restoration of health, the preservation of life. It is to that purpose that this building is dedicated today. But my dear friends, to work with God, we need to understand how He works. The better we understand His way, the more fully, the more successfully we will cooperate with Him.

And as we look out on the universe and as we study the Bible, we see in these twin books, the book of nature and the book of revelation, we see evidences on all sides of this fact, that God is a God of love, and no less He is a God of law. In fact, His laws proceed from His love. Every law that He has given, whether in the Ten Commandments to guide us morally or in this body to guide us physically—all these laws are for our happiness.

And it is the purpose of the Gospel to lead us to an understanding of these laws, and then through the sacrifice of Christ, to bring us back to harmony with those laws, to cover our past mistakes with the blood of His cross, and to lift us by the power of His Spirit into a life of obedience to His commands.

It is to the study of those laws that this building is dedicated, not merely to treat the sick, but to help all, both the sick and the well, to learn the laws of life. And these laws, while mysterious and broad and infinite, are very simple.

When we go back to the first page of the first book of the Bible, we find that wonderful statement:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”
Genesis 1:1.

The first two chapters describe the fitting up of this planet to be the home of man. And at the close of that week of creation:

“...God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good...” Genesis 1:31.

And He gave us the Sabbath as a sign of that completed work, a token of His joy in a finished creation. And He made it for man.

Now briefly, I'd like to have you notice the simple laws that God created right there at the beginning of the world. What were the first words that came from the Creator's lips?

“...Let there be light...” Genesis 1:3.

“...Let there be light...” Genesis 1:3.

And from that moment to the present hour, light has been one of the basic essentials in the life of man. Am I correct? Yes.

Then on the second day, you remember it says that He made the firmament. And that's just another name for this air that lies between the earth and the heaven above.

On the third day, you remember that He separated the waters from the land and He caused to grow out of the ground the trees, the flowers, the fruit and all the things that were necessary for man's life, both to cheer his heart with beauty, and to give sustenance to his body.

Now, I want you to think of the expressions that the Bible uses concerning these basic essentials of light and air and water and food. When Jesus spoke of Himself as the Light of the world, He pointed to the sun, and He spoke of the Light of life:

“...The Light of life” John 8:12.

In Genesis 2:7, when He spoke of the beginning of man's existence, He said:

“...God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of...” Genesis 2:7.

What?

“...life...” Genesis 2:7.

Note: the Light of life, the breath of life.

Again, that river that He caused to flow from and through the Garden of Eden is called in the Revelation the river of the water of life.

“...And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”
Revelation 22:17.

Again, that tree which was preeminently *the* tree of all His creation was called the tree of what? Life. All right.

Then, you have here four basic needs of man: light and air and water and food. And each one of them is associated with what? Life—the light of life, the breath of life, the water of life, the tree of life. And so, it is—don’t miss it—it is through these agencies that the Creator imparts His own life to man.

If you were the Devil, what would you do about it? Come now, if you were the Devil, what would you do about it? Well, I’ll tell you what he *has* done about it. He has sought to put a curtain of smog between man and that Light of life. He has sought to pollute the air so that the breath of life becomes death-dealing, disease-laden. He has sought to pollute the waters of our land so that no longer does the stream of life flow along our rivers. And oh, how he has worked with our food, how he has taken the bread of life, the staff of life, and with modern manufacturing processes taken out the very germ, taken out the bran with its layers of mineral-laden elements.

And so, he has worked with food after food. What’s he trying to do? Why, the Bible says that he’s a thief.

“Ah, but,” somebody says, “Brother Frazee, don’t you know that the flour has been enriched and that all the bread we eat today is enriched bread?”

Really, if it weren’t so tragic, it would be to laugh about. I’ll tell you this. If somebody stole \$50 out of your pocket and then, as a gift, gave you \$10 back, would you say they had enriched you?

This is what is happening in the enriched flours and the enriched breads that are feeding hundreds of millions of people today. My point is this. We are in a great controversy, and the enemy is working to interfere with the life processes.

What is needed is a call back to creation, back to the conditions (as far as human beings can go), back to the conditions that were in the Garden of Eden, where surrounded by nature, man found in the garden his light, his breath, his water, his food, his occupation, his schoolroom, his chapel of worship. It was all there with God. Am I right?

For God gave to Adam and Eve, not merely a home, He gave them a laboratory in which to work with Him in the great lesson of life. And Adam’s occupation was that of

sharing with the Creator in growing his food. The nearer we get to those conditions, the more life giving is our environment.

This is why, my dear friends, you see this building erected, not on a city block, not just in some suburb, but way out here in the hills where beautiful Lookout Mountain smiles down upon us, and Raccoon Mountain is on our backyard, where these lovely hills of Dade stretch out before you. Isn't it a beautiful scene, friends?

Ah, these facilities are not limited to the square footage in this building. We have all the ground that people will ever need to walk over and to share with God in looking at the beauties of nature and share with God in growing food. For in outdoor exercise, men and women find the life of God. Working with God in the garden, walking with God on these trails up the mountainside—here is life, my friends.

In recent years, in a number of European countries, scientific research has developed a whole system of what is called reconditioning. Literally thousands of businessmen, executives, as well as workers in factories are screened by examination by insurance companies and by governments. What is the purpose? To discover those who are coronary prone, that is, those who may have a heart attack in the next five, ten, fifteen years.

And my friends, it's possible to find that out. You don't have to wait until you have a heart attack. Such diagnostic facilities will be available in this institution that we're dedicating today.

But my point is, over there in Europe, they have taken hundreds and now thousands of cases over a period of years and have put those individuals who are found to be candidates for heart attacks, they have put them through a program of outdoor exercise, such as in the Alps Mountains and in other places. They have put them on a program of proper treatment and education. And as the result, the lives of thousands have been prolonged. The increase of productivity is of great value to the businesses and to the governments involved.

But those institutions are largely motivated merely by the humanitarian idea. And this is wonderful. But ah, my dear friends, I'm thankful this afternoon to have a little part in a little institution that is motivated by this fact, that man is precious to God, man is precious to God. Statistics appeal to government leaders and insurance companies. But the thing that appeals to Jesus Christ is how much you are worth as an individual.

This spring, down in Venezuela, a 13-year-old boy was kidnaped and held for ransom. His father, a multimillionaire, paid off and the ransom was \$900,000. Don't you wish somebody thought that much of you? Nine hundred thousand dollars—tell me, was the boy worth it? Doubtless, he was to his father, but I want to ask you something. Was it the ransom that made him worth it? Was he worth more after he got home than he was before he was kidnaped? Oh, no. The father paid the ransom because the boy was already worth that much to him. Am I right?

Listen, when you and I come to Calvary and see the Creator, the One who spoke light and breath and water and food into existence, when we see Him, the Creator, hanging upon the cross, giving His life as a ransom, and when we remember (and don't miss it, my friends) that He would have done that for just one, that means He would have done it for me. That means He *did* it for me. That means He did it for you.

I ask you, my friend, how much are you worth? How much is your fellow man worth, your brother, your sister? Do you begin to see then how interested Heaven must be in a program of helping individuals to get the benefit of that ransom that Jesus paid?

Ah friends, you and I have been made custodians of property of infinite value. Your body, the Scripture says, is the temple of the Holy Spirit. You're not your own. What I put into this body is not just *my* concern. Someday the One who made me and gave His life for me is going to ask an accounting of my stewardship. He's going to ask me how I took care of this body.

Oh, how wonderful it is to join with Him in teaching people how to take care of these bodies so that we're working with the Life giver instead of the death dealer. What do you say?

And so this afternoon, for Jesus' sake and in His name, we're setting this building apart as a place where people can come and find out what in their programs has not been in harmony with the laws of life. In order to make this possible, we have a scientific staff of well-trained physicians, nurses and other medical personnel. We believe that the laws of science and the laws of religion are authored by the same Creator. There is no conflict in this institution between medical science and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The two are twin endeavors blended here in the endeavor to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, the Creator of man and His redeemer.

Our chaplain, Elder Paul Felt, is going to lead us in a dedicatory prayer.

[Elder Felt] Shall we bow our heads?

Our loving heavenly Father, our hearts are thrilled and solemnized by the thoughts that we have been sharing together of why this building has been constructed, how it may be used to the glory of Thy holy name. And what it is our endeavor to carry on here in this place for the care, the cure, the encouragement of the sick.

We pray, Father, that as we are about to enter into this new work, Thy Holy Spirit may fill and guide all who are responsible for carrying it on, that Thou wilt be with our physicians, with our nurses, with our help in the humblest of duties, with our students who are preparing here to go out into near and distant places to carry on the work of the Savior for others that cannot be reached here in this place.

And we pray, Father, that although we know this building is beautiful and has

been built at great cost and with great care, we know Father, that all of this is nothing except the Builder and the Guide of those who take part in its work is the One whom we serve and the One to whom our lives have been given.

We pray, Father, that now we may have the joy of placing this building in the hands of the great Physician as an instrument to be used for the healing of the sick and to help others who are not sick to stay well and to learn how to live for Him.

We pray that as we lay it in Thy hands, Thy blessing may be upon it, and Thy Word may guide in its service. And we thank Thee for this unspeakable privilege, in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

[Special music]

“Our Father, Which art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done
In earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
For ever. Amen.”
“The Lord’s Prayer.”

[Brother Atherton] At six o’clock this evening on channel 3, there will be a complete report of the work of this institution and pictures of this new building. That’s six o’clock on channel 3.

Also, any of you who have not had the opportunity of a tour through this building, report down to the main entrance, and there’ll be guides to show you through. Thank you very much for coming and good day.

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