

This is a complete transcript of the oral history interview with **David Morris Howard** by Paul Ericksen (CN 484, T2) for the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center Archives. No spoken words which were recorded are omitted. In a very few cases, the transcribers could not understand what was said, in which case “[unclear]” was inserted. If the transcribers were not completely sure that they had the words correctly, a “[?]” was inserted. Also, grunts and verbal hesitations such as "ah" or "um" are usually omitted. Readers of this transcript should remember that this is a transcript of spoken English, which follows a different rhythm and even rule than written English.

. . . Three dots indicate an interruption or break in the train of thought within the sentence on the part of the speaker.

. . . . Four dots indicate what the transcriber believes to be the end of an incomplete sentence.

() Words in parentheses are asides made by the speaker.

[] Words in brackets are comments by the transcriber.

This transcript, created by Paul Ericksen and Bella Hicklin-Campbell, was completed in September 2021.

Please note: This oral history interview expresses the personal memories and opinions of the interviewee and does not necessarily represent the views or policies of the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center Archives or Wheaton College.

Collection 484, Tape T2. Oral history interview with David Morris Howard by Paul Ericksen on March 24, 1993. (66 minutes)

ERICKSEN: Okay, we were talking about your spiritual development...

HOWARD: Uh-huh.

ERICKSEN: ...and you'd finished talking about Keswick [site of a Bible conference in New Jersey]...

HOWARD: Uh-huh.

ERICKSEN: ...and what a significant impact that had.

HOWARD: Uh-huh. Well, then the next stage of my life was right here at Wheaton College, of course. That took place just before my senior year of high school.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: When I came to Wheaton, then there were a number of very, very significant influences on me. I've already mentioned Dr. [Charles] Brooks, the Dean of Students.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

HOWARD: Some of the other professors had a very good, strong influence on me, perhaps in other ways. Studying under Dr. [Merrill] Tenney, one of the great biblical scholars of the day, was a tremendous privilege, and I've been very grateful for that.

ERICKSEN: And, of course, you were a Bible major.

HOWARD: I was a Bible major. Then I took my Master's in Theology under Tenney. He was my thesis advisor. And that was a great experience. Obviously, I think the next most influential person on me was Jim Elliot, who became my closest friend. We got...we became friends fairly early in the game our freshman year.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: We got acquainted through the wrestling team. We were both on the wrestling team as freshman, and then all through the four years. And our friendship grew and by our second year (our sophomore year), and we were very close friends. And junior year we lived together down at what is now Elliot Hall [no longer standing as the original building was torn down and the name was transferred to a set of three nearby apartment buildings, Saint and Elliot Apartments]. That had just been built that year. And we were asked to be...

ERICKSEN: What was it called then?

HOWARD: It was just called Unit One [Ericksen laughs] or Culp.... They did give it another name. They called it Culp Hall [Culp Memorial Hall] also.

ERICKSEN: Huh.

HOWARD: It was the two...they called it the one...Unit One, Unit Two. But they named it Culp. Culp was some obscure fellow [William C. Culp] who'd been killed during the war, whose mother had wanted him to come to Wheaton, and I don't know whether they may have given money towards it or something.

ERICKSEN: Huh.

HOWARD: Anyway, they...they named it Culp Hall. But later when Jim died, they named it Elliot Hall.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: They had asked us to be what they called in those days "dorm counselors." Same as an RA today, I guess.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: Upperclassmen. Because those two dorms were for freshmen. They wanted upperclassman living...responsible for a certain number of the underclassman. So, Jim and I were assigned to the dorm there and we had one hallway that we were responsible for between us. But he had a tremendous influence on me. We spent a lot of time in prayer, Bible study together. And just did a lot of things together, the wrestling team and class activities and all. And he was...I was...our sophomore year, I was class president. He was class treasurer. So, we were officers of the class together. And then our junior year, we were...well, all of our years, we were active in the SFMF, the Student Foreign Missions Fellowship. He became president of that his senior year, and I became president of the student body. And we were on Student Council together, all those sort of things. But his influence on me was profound.

ERICKSEN: Now, what was it that influenced you?

HOWARD: Well, I guess it was a lot of things. One was his obvious just total abandonment to the Lord. He was one of these kind of people who just sold out completely to the Lord. His first two years, he was almost overly pious. There was almost a holier...in fact, there was a holier-than-thou attitude about him. And that bothered me, although we were very close friends. That bothered me greatly. And he...he took a very strong stand on such things like celibacy. He felt that celibacy was God's highest calling, and anybody who wasn't willing to be a celibate was really kind of like a second-class Christian. To spend time with girls and to think about getting married, that was, you know, that...that's just kind of lower-class Christianity. If you really want to be committed to the Lord, sold out totally to the Lord, why, you don't waste your time on

those kind of things. Which meant that in his first two years, he didn't get involved in much of the campus activities. He wouldn't go to a football game. That's a waste of time. You should be home studying your Bible or praying. He wouldn't have a date, never dated a girl in those years. He wouldn't go to parties, that kind of thing. And I was very much the opposite. I mean, I was a...fairly much of a socialite type. I liked social activities. I went to games. I dated girls, went to the class parties. And, of course, when I was class president I was expected to be involved in class activities, which I was. And he'd make me feel like a lower-class Christian at times.

ERICKSEN: Hmm.

HOWARD: I can remember when we lived together at the dorm there, [laughs] I'd come home from...in the evening from a date with Phyllis, who is now my wife. That year I was dating her quite a lot. We didn't have any commitment to each other, but I was...I guess you could say I was going steady that year. I don't think I ever dated any other girl. She was dating other guys, so she wasn't going steady. But she was the only girl...I...I think maybe I never dated another girl that whole year. And I'd come back to the dorm and Jim would be sitting there reading his Bible, and I'd been out at a party or a basketball game or something. And he'd look at me and say, "You been out with Phyllis again?" And I'd say, "Yeah." And he'd, "Oh, [makes huffing noise]." You know, he'd sort of turn away and like that. [laughs] Make me feel about that high. [laughs] And he went through what we used to refer to as his "glory boy days" those first couple of years. He would [Ericksen laughs]...if he'd see you halfway across campus, he'd shout across to you, "Glory brother. What's your verse for the day?" And you were supposed to shout back to him the verse that God had given you in your quiet time. Presumably you would have had your quiet time in the morning. Got to the place where a lot of students didn't want to...didn't want to sit at breakfast table with Jim in the...in the dining hall because they'd know he'd ask them for their verse for the day. And if they hadn't had their quiet time, [laughs] well, [laughs] they...they didn't have anything to say. And he'd make them feel second class. So, there was a certain amount of holier-than-thou attitude there, which he came out of about halfway through our junior year. He went through what he himself referred to as the renaissance. And it was a spiritual renaissance in the sense of he began to realize that God is much bigger than he had given him credit for. He had God sort of boxed into the little things, you know, not...not supposed to have any fun in life. You're just supposed to be totally thinking only about the Lord and reading the Bible and praying, but these other things are all superfluous. He began to realize the truth of what Paul says, "God has given us richly all things to enjoy." [1 Timothy 6:17] And he began to enjoy life. Well, Jim, being the kind of guy who never did anything halfway, he swung the pendulum the opposite direction and, you know, he just pulled out all the stops. And the last year-and-half here at college he was pretty wild. Had a...he had a lot of fun. I mean, he dated girls, and he'd go to parties, and he'd be the life of the party. He had a great sense of humor. And he could...you know, he'd just dominate the party, not because he necessarily tried to. It was just his whole personality.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: He was an overwhelming type of person. But that real commitment to the Lord. And then coming out of this holier-than-thou attitude, I think was a helpful thing for me.

ERICKSEN: To what did he attribute the renaissance that he went through?

HOWARD: Well, I guess it was just beginning to realize in Scripture, through the reading of Scripture in such things as that verse I've just quoted: "God has given us richly all things to enjoy"...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...he began to realize God doesn't want you to be boxed in to a no-fun type of life, that there's nothing wrong at all with having fun in other things besides reading your Bible or praying. I really...I'm not sure that I could pinpoint any one thing, but it was a rather sudden change. And it when...when he changed, he really changed. And those days we had junior-senior activities in the springtime, which were pretty wild at times. And he got into the thick of that just up to his neck and had great fun with it. And there was always the...whichever class you were in, you'd try to get the leaders of the other class and we'd take him out and throw him in the lake in Northside Park. You know, if the juniors could get the senior class president and toss him in the lake, that was supposed to be a big deal, and you get any of the other class leaders. We did a lot of that sort of thing.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: And some of the faculty here got gray hairs over us. [both laugh] I remember...I remember one time at the height of these activities that...faculty was...just tear their hair over the crazy stuff we were doing. And a bunch of us got called in on the carpet. And we were sort of the campus leaders. I was probably...it was our senior year, which means I would have been student body president and Jim was president of SFMF, a whole bunch of us. We were called in on the carpet in front of the whole faculty. And they were kind of, you know, trying to get us under control. And finally, one dear old faculty member (an older man) spoke up and he said, "Well, why don't you fellows act like adults?" And Jim Elliot says, "Cause we're not." [both laugh] But there were...he was a great influence. Then I'm sure that just the general influence of some of the professors and some other students too that...and the whole atmosphere of the college...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...had a lot to do. And I made certain decisions at that time too that...about my whole life, my future life, that were very significant.

ERICKSEN: Now when did you start thinking of yourself vocationally as being a missionary?

HOWARD: Okay. That started in my freshman year.

ERICKSEN: Huh.

HOWARD: When I came to Wheaton, I had pretty well decided in my own mind that I was going to go into *The Sunday School Times*. It seemed like the right thing to do. [laughs] I mean, here I was, what?, third...third generation now. No, fourth generation...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...in *The Sunday School Times*. And I had liked writing. I had enjoyed English courses in high school. And I had been editor of a high school paper, that sort of thing. And I thought, "Well, very logical. I'll...I'll follow my father." Had great respect and love for my father and that just seemed like.... So I was going to major in English here. So, I did. I started out as an English major. But a couple things happened my freshman year that shook me up. The first place, when we first came in and they had some kind of exams...entrance exams that we took where they placed us in certain categories. And...and freshmen, there was a required freshman writing course, they called it then. And on the basis of our exams we were placed in some categories. There was an advanced group in this writing course, and there was some other groups. I didn't make the advanced group. I don't know which group I made, but I know it wasn't the advanced group. And that kind of shook me up. I thought, "Man. I'm going to be a English major. I want to be a writer." And I didn't make that group. And that kind of rocked me back a little bit. Then the class that I did get in was taught by the chairman of the English Department, who to me at that stage was dry as dust. Oh, man, as a teacher, the dear lady...she's a sweet wonderful lady but....

ERICKSEN: Who was that?

HOWARD: That was Dr. Marian Downey. And had you better [laughs] erase that from the tape, but she's long since gone, but....

ERICKSEN: Yeah.

HOWARD: Yeah, she was a dear godly lady, there's no doubt about that. But as a teacher she was a lost cause. And that class was, oh, so boring. And I thought, "Hey, wait a minute. [Ericksen laughs] I'm an English major under this woman for the next for years?" And so, I suppose it was probably about halfway through or somewhere along in my freshman year, the Lord began to raise in my mind the question, as though the Lord were saying to me, "Well, whose idea was it for you to go into journalism? Was it mine or was it yours?" And I began to realize, "Well, maybe I never really did give the Lord a chance to make clear to me what he wanted me to do."

ERICKSEN: Hmm.

HOWARD: So, I began to open myself up and pray and seek the Lord's will. And in the course of that year and probably on into my sophomore year...it was a developmental kind of thing. I can't put my finger on one day or any particular event and say I had a missionary call. What happened was two things began to come home to me. As I studied the Scriptures I saw, first of all, that as Christians one of our great responsibilities is the fulfillment of the Great Commission,



to get the gospel to the whole world. No question about that. Second thing that I began to see, and this was probably through the SFMF (the Foreign Missions Fellowship group)...began to see that most of the people in their world that have never heard of Christ, or that don't have the gospel, are not in the United States, they're somewhere else, and mostly unreached people. And that's...of course, that's still true. And I began to realize, "Well look, if on the one hand the Bible says that I'm to get the gospel to those that have never heard and if most of those who have never heard are in some other part of the world, how can I go wrong by at least trying to go to some other part of the world as a missionary, and that way try to do God's will?" So, I felt that, for me, the right step to take was to say, "Alright Lord, I will plan to go overseas to some part of the world that hasn't had the gospel as adequately as we've had it here. And if that's not what you want, you close the door." I always felt it would be easier for the Lord to close a door than it would be for him to shove me out into something if I were sitting still. The old illustration used to come to my mind of the rudder of a ship. And if a ship is sitting at harbor at anchor, you can flip the rudder 360 degrees, it doesn't affect the direction of the ship. But if the ship is out moving, it's not too serious if it's going the wrong direction, because then you just flip the rudder and you get it going the right direction. And I felt as though if I get moving and say, "Alright, Lord, this is what I'm going to do. I'm going to head this way, and if that happens to be wrong, well, Lord, you flip the rudder, you send me in right direction." Jim Elliott used to say [laughs]...he'd say, "We don't need a call. We need a kick in the pants." And yeah, there was an element of truth to that.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: So, it was that kind of a thing. So, by the...early in my sophomore year, I guess, I was quite convinced that this was the direction that I was supposed to go. And so, my whole life from then on became missions. And there's never been any deviation from it. My sophomore year they had the first of the Urbana conventions, InterVarsity 1946. It was not held at Urbana [Illinois]. It was held at the University of Toronto.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: But Jim and I went to that convention, and others from Wheaton, 575 of us from all over the country. And we thought it was a great thing. And I signed a world evangelism decision card at that convention, which I still have.

ERICKSEN: Yeah, we've got the other half here probably. [in Collection 300, Records of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship]

HOWARD: You probably do because it was...yeah, it was sent in...it was given to InterVarsity...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...and you have those, don't you? Yeah.

ERICKSEN: We have them, sure, yeah.

HOWARD: It's in there somewhere then. I still have the bottom half. And from that point on there's never... there was never any doubt in my mind. The only thing was I didn't know where the Lord wanted me to go. But the thing that became also clear to me was, as far as God is concerned, geography was secondary. Geography was not the important point. The thing that was important was that I should commit myself to God and say, "This is what I'm going to do." Like the call of Abraham. When God called Abraham, Genesis 12, he didn't tell him where to go. He just said, "Go from your land to a land that I will show you." And he didn't say go to Canaan. If he'd said go to Canaan, Abraham could have said the rest of his life, "God called me to Canaan." God didn't call him primarily to Canaan. He called him to obedience.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: And I felt this is the way God was dealing with me. It's not a question of go to X country. It's a question of "You go, and I'll show you the land that I want you to go to." So, I began to move. And for several years I actually thought we'd be going to Central Asia. The reason for that was simply that I tried to find, "Well, where is the toughest place in the world to go? Where is the most unreached place?" And Afghanistan came to my attention...

ERICKSEN: Hmm.

HOWARD: ...which was totally closed to the gospel. And as far as anybody knew, no Christians at all, certainly no church in Afghanistan. So I thought, "Okay, I'll target Afghanistan, try to go there." And I actually moved in that direction for some years until I was here in grad school. And shall I move on to this point or should I continue here...

ERICKSEN: No...not yet.

HOWARD: ...or do you want us to just stay...?

ERICKSEN: Let's stay time-wise where we are.

HOWARD: Yeah, alright. Well, anyway, so I would say by the middle of my sophomore year there was no question in my mind that this is what I thought God wanted me to do...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...and this is the direction I would go until the Lord either closed the door or made clear some other direction.

ERICKSEN: Now, I'm curious. Did Jim Elliot have any idea where he wanted to go at that point?

HOWARD: Not at that stage. He was in the same developmental stage that I was in. Now the idea of unreached peoples or getting to somebody who never had the gospel, that, of course, was a big thing for him too. And he was heading for the mission field even when he came. The reason he went out for wrestling was because he wanted to build up his body for pioneer missionary work. He'd never done any wrestling in high school. He didn't know a thing about wrestling, but he knew that he wanted to be a pioneer missionary. And he knew that that would take a rugged physique.

ERICKSEN: Huh.

HOWARD: And so, he decided. "Well, the best sport then for building up my physique will be wrestling." So, he became a wrestler.

ERICKSEN: What kind of wrestler was he?

HOWARD: He...he was very poor at the beginning. He became a champion by his senior year, because he'd throw himself wholeheartedly in it. [laughs] I'll never [laughs]...oh gee...we'll never forget his first match. [laughs] Oh, gee. That was a disaster. We...in those days there weren't too many small schools here in the Midwest that had wrestling. So, we had to wrestle with the big boys. We wrestled with Iowa and Michigan State and Northwestern, Wisconsin, Illinois, and those kind of schools, plus some of the few smaller ones that had wrestling. And the very first meet we ever had...we were freshmen and I had never wrestled before either. I had done a little wrestling and in...in 8th grade. I went to Stony Brook and I'd learned a little bit of wrestling, but I've never had any formal...and Jim had not done a thing. And our very first meet was down at the University of Illinois at Urbana. Every time I go back to Urbana I have memories of what took place there. My match and then...and his. And Jim ran into a guy who was the national champion [Ericksen laughs] at...you know...at his very first match. And this guy took ahold of Jim, he put every hold in the books on him and tossed him all over the place. And he couldn't pin him because we discovered Jim was double-jointed. He was like rubber. And the guy put a...like Half Nelson on him, where most guys' arm would go here, and they'd have to turn. Jim's arm...elbow would go sticking way out here, and his body wouldn't turn. The guy grabbed him by the leg and lift like this, and instead of leg stopping here, his leg just keeps on going. And his body wouldn't move, [laughs] you know. The guy twisted him in every direction, never could pin him. He...of course he beat him by a big score, but he...so we used to call Jim "Rubberneck" after that. [both laugh] And then, of course, he improved and especially after the renaissance when he began to realize, "Well, I might as well have fun wrestling." Up...prior to that I don't think wrestling was really too much fun for him.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: It was just something else he felt he had to do. He's doing it out of a sense of duty. But then he began to realize, "Hey, this can be a lot of fun." So, he became a champion. He won the Wheaton Invitational Tournament here. And he won medals elsewhere. [laughs]

ERICKSEN: Hmm. You mentioned Dr. Tenney before. Could you talk a little more about what it was like studying under him...

HOWARD: Uh-huh.

ERICKSEN: ...and what he was like to work with?

HOWARD: Yeah. He was one of the toughest profs I ever had and unquestionably the finest professor I ever had. He had the most remarkable ability of giving an assignment in a just a few words that would drive you into deep, deep, deep lengthy study and you'd feel as though there's no end to what you could do in trying to get what he's drawing out of you with this...with this kind of an assignment. Made you work very hard, but it was well worth it because you realized what you were getting when you did this. As I say in grad school, he was my thesis advisor.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: He really made me work. Boy, did I work on my thesis. And I was very glad for it. It was a wonderful experience. In class he was a delightful teacher. He had a dry sense of humor. It was a little bit like my father's sense of humor where...he wasn't a slapstick kind of man at all, you know. He was very formal and very staid, but his dry humor, the wording he would use was great. But the depth of what he'd bring out from the Scriptures and call...force us to bring out...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...teaching us how.... The greatest thing I learned from Tenney was not so much the content, although I got a lot of wonderful content, but it was the tools he gave me. He taught us how to study, how to exegete the Scriptures, and what the tools are for doing that, which to me was by far the most valuable thing. So that, through the rest of my life in...I've done a lot, of course...Bible teaching and public speaking and all of that. And I'm sure I'm still to this day building on and using the tools that he taught us how to use, the methods of exegesis...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...and that sort of thing.

ERICKSEN: Now what did you do your thesis on?

HOWARD: [laughs] It's interesting [laughs], especially when you know that I was International Director of the World Evangelical Fellowship, whose whole purpose is to bring cooperation and unity. My thesis was on the "New Testament Criteria of Ecclesiastical Separation," which was partly growing out of what I'd seen my father struggle through with, say, Carl McIntire-type-of-thing.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

HOWARD: Well, the whole problem...because that was a big issue in those days, back in the '40s and I was in grad school here, '51, '52. That was a big thing, the whole question of separation. And so I just decided, "Well, I'll do an exegetical study of what the New Testament has to say about separation. And Tenney drove me deep, deep into it, made me really work hard. Dr. [Earl] Cairns was one of the readers on my committee and he was very, very helpful too.

ERICKSEN: Hmm. How did you find the academics here at Wheaton?

HOWARD: Challenging, especially since I'd gone to a high school where we really weren't challenged too much. Hampden Dubose Academy. Whatever else it was, it was good for me. It was not very much of an academic [laughs] challenge there.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: And I really had to work. Boy, did I work. I mean, when I—whoa! I remember taking first-year Greek in my freshman year, and that nearly swamped me. In those days here you had to take two years of classical Greek before you could even get into the Koine. You didn't even get into the New Testament Greek until your third year. I was a Bible major, so I had to take Greek and, of course, I was glad I did. But classical Greek was tough, hard reading. Much harder the New Testament.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: And I had two years of that, which was good because then when we moved into the New Testament, Koine Greek is really a lot easier to read than...than Homer and the *Odyssey* and those kind of things, you know.

ERICKSEN: Yeah.

HOWARD: So, that was good. And I worked hard in other classes. It was...it was very high academically, no question about that.

ERICKSEN: You mentioned F...SFMF...

HOWARD: Uh-huh.

ERICKSEN: ...and how you got involved. Who were the leaders of the group as...during your earlier...during your freshman, soph...?

HOWARD: You mean student leaders?

ERICKSEN: Yes.

HOWARD: Yeah. Yeah, I can remember who they were. The freshman year, the fellow who was president was named Wade Seaford. And he became a Christian Missionary Alliance

missionary. Where did he go? Southeast Asia or somewhere with the Alliance, I forget. He was...and then our sophomore year a fellow who really had a good influence on me was named Bill Henderson. Now Bill never actually went to the mission field. He lat...he became a pastor in the Conservative Baptist denomination. Bill was several years older than the rest of us. And this was another factor that was a great influence on me at Wheaton. I've often mentioned this publicly. I was in the post-World War II generation, but I was not a veteran. I...I had just turned seventeen or eighteen as the war ended. I never went into the service, but I came to school at the time that the campus was suddenly being flooded with the veterans coming back.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: Which meant these were older men. Some of them have been in the service for up to four years, because back in the war years there was no discharge until the war was over. You went in for the duration. So, fellows who went in '41, '42, they didn't come out 'til '45, '46. And some of them maybe already had a year or two of college before that. So, by the time they came back to school '46, '47-period, they were anywhere from three, four, five years older than the rest of us...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...and much more mature because they've been out there. And they'd seen life and death. They'd seen the real deep issues of life. They'd seen their buddies blown up in front of their face and that sort of thing. So they were much more serious about life than the average seventeen or eighteen-year-old freshman coming in...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...right out of high school. Bill Henderson was one of them. He'd been a tank commander in...in Europe, and he'd fought across Europe in the tank core. And very godly man, very mature. He was probably five or six years older than I was. And he had a very, very strong influence on me too. And he was president of the SFMF my sophomore year. My junior year it was a fella named E.W. Hatcher [given name although later legally changed to Elias Wesley Hatcher], who is one of the...became one of the founders of Mission Aviation Fellowship. He had been a pilot in the war.

ERICKSEN: We've got his papers here. [[Collection 377, Papers of Elias Hatcher](#)]

HOWARD: Yeah, you...oh, you have his papers? Well, Hatch was a great guy. And he...he'd been a pilot. And he was helping to form MAF, which was founded, as you would know, by the pilots from World War II. The whole concept missionary aviation really grew directly out of the war.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: He was here, and he was...also had a good influence. Then Jim [Elliot] was president our senior year. Bill Henderson had a...also had a very...a formative...and this refers...but you were asking me some of the people that influenced me most. This was one incident that took place that was very, very significant in my life. In fact, I would say through the rest of my life the direction that happened here was very, very significant. During my sophomore year, my...oh, my freshman year rather, there was a group here on campus who was called...they called themselves Peniel. They...they came from a camp in New York State. There was a camp there called Camp Peniel, where there was a particular type of teaching at that time. I don't think there is any more there, but this particular type of teaching taught a great deal of emphasis on the Holy Spirit. And a great deal of emphasis on the immediacy of the Holy Spirit, the immediate leading of the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit can lead you. Should you wear a green necktie this morning or a...or a brown one? Or should you tie your shoes now or is it time to make your bed? I mean that kind of thing, that the Holy Spirit will lead you in every phase of your life. And they were getting ahold of other students that they thought were responsive to the Lord, and they were trying to sort of draw them into this...almost like a little cult group on campus. And they were upperclassmen, the leaders. And one evening...spring evening—I'll never forget this—two of the upper class leaders...and I'll tell you what who one of them was. (Maybe this wouldn't be too wise to mention). One of them was Truman Esau, who is today head of the...the North Park Counseling Clinic, where the college still sends...

ERICKSEN: Hmm.

HOWARD: ...[unclear]. He's changed greatly from what...from this time. But anyway, he and...he and two or...a couple of others, a girl and another fella, asked me if I would go out for a walk with them. So we walked out into what were then cornfields between here in Glen Ellyn. Between here and Glen Ellyn it was open farmland in those days. And we walked out into a field there and sat down. And they...they had apparently sensed that I was a student who was sensitive to spiritual things and had desires to follow the Lord. I was young, freshmen. And they talked to me at great length about this whole teaching, which almost was really a cult-type of teaching, the overemphasis on the Holy Spirit, although it's built on truth...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...but truth pushed out of proportion. And I didn't see through this. And I was very impressed. And I was...they wanted to get me into their little group. And I was all ready to do so. Well, somebody saw me heading off with them and this fella didn't know me personally but he knew who they were. And he knew that Bill Henderson, the president of FMF, was a good friend of mine. And he knew Bill was a very godly, steady, spiritual man. He went and he told Bill. He said, "Hey," he said, "that Peniel group got ahold of Dave Howard last night, took him off, and I know what they're trying to do. They're probably trying to pull him into their little cult." So, Bill came to me the next day. And he said, "Dave, do you have s...could I talk with you?" And so we went off to talk. And he said, "I understand..." you know, I'd gone off with them. "And they..." and he said, "Now I don't want to criticize anybody, but let me show you some things." And he began to give me a much more balanced outlook on things. And then...then I became very confused, 'cause I had great respect for Bill, but I had been very



deeply moved by these others. And I thought “Boy, what is this?” And I was struggling. And that night I could hardly sleep at all. I was tossing around in bed. And finally, I got up, walked down the street to the home of Pastor Joseph [C.] Macaulay, who is pastoring the Wheaton Bible Church then. And I knew him. I was going to the Bible Church. I was teaching Sunday School there. And I got him out of bed, routed him out of bed in the middle of the night, and I told him my problem. This...this one group that I was greatly impressed with and then Bill Henderson, I had great respect for. And I said, “They’ve got me all confused. What am I going to do?” And Dr. Macaulay sat down and he said to me one of the most significant things I’ve ever heard about the Holy Spirit. And it formed my thinking and formed a basis which years later in Colombia, when we got caught in a great upsurge of charismatic movement and our churches in Colombia were being torn apart through confusion of a charismatic nature, this teaching was the foundation that helped me see what the New Testament really has to say. He said to me, “David.” He took me into John 16, where Jesus was talking about the coming of the Comforter. And Jesus says there, “When he comes, he will not speak of himself. He will glorify me.” And he said, “The ministry of the Holy Spirit is primarily not to talk about himself, but to lift up Christ.” And then he said these words, and I’ve never forgotten him, and I’ve quoted them probably hundreds of times since. He said, “Whenever you see someone who is talking about the Holy Spirit to the exclusion of Christ, you know that there’s something out of balance. There’s something wrong there.” And that was...that became a very, very foundational, formative thing for me. And later, as I say, when I got caught in real charismatic confusion...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...I would go back again and again to that teaching. So, Bill Henderson was really the one, ‘cause he was basically saying the same thing, but he hadn’t said in quite those words. And I didn’t know how to put them together. And then when Dr. Macaulay said that to me, that just set my mind at ease. And I separated myself completely from the Peniel group. And was very thankful I did, ‘cause they really were like a little cult.

ERICKSEN: Now, what became of them?

HOWARD: They petered out. They....

ERICKSEN: During your four years?

HOWARD: I think so. I never heard much about them again after my freshman year. And I guess they, as a...as an organization or as a group from this camp in New York State, I think they continued for some years. But they kind of got lost in the shuffle, I guess. And I’ve never, ever really heard about them again much. But they were quite influential here for period of time.

ERICKSEN: Were there any major spiritual events that occurred on campus while you were...

HOWARD: Yes, there was.

ERICKSEN: ...a student here?

HOWARD: I was not here [for] the famous 1950 revival. I graduated '49. But we felt (and I think it's true)...we had a revival of a very deep nature in 1948...

ERICKSEN: Hmm.

HOWARD: ...my junior year. And that came about through Stephen Olford, followed up by Bob Munger. Stephen Olford came to campus and he was very young at that time. He was just starting out as a preacher, not very well known yet at all. And he had a week of meetings here and they were powerful meetings. It was the...I guess it was the mid-winter meetings that they would usually have.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: I guess it was. I'm not certain about that. But I know it was in mid-winter. And boy, his messages really got through to us. And the whole student body was being moved by this. And it didn't produce the kind of...the confession-type thing that went on in 1950 and on a couple of other occasions in the history of Wheaton. It wasn't that type. But it was a very deep, very solid, very steady movement of the Spirit in our lives. And I know that I was one of those deeply moved by it. In fact, it was so strong that students themselves got together a petition to the administration to ask him to stay on another whole week. I've never known that to happen before. Maybe it's happened since, but I've never heard of it. And we signed this petition. I don't remember who organized it. Somebody got it organized and hundreds of us students signed this petition, gave it to Dr. Edman. We said, "We need more of this teaching. Can you please ask Dr. Olford to stay another week?" So, they did. They cancelled whatever they'd planned for chapel for that next week. He stayed on another week. He almost lost his voice in the process. He'd preach...he's a very...I don't know if you've ever heard Steven Olford preach, but he's a very powerful...but boy, it was great. And then....

ERICKSEN: What was the emphasis of his messages?

HOWARD: Well, it was on a...just like a total commitment to the Lord, not allowing anything to come between you and the Lord. [laughs] One of the results for me personally [laughs]...I look back on this. I'm glad it happened because it...it tested me at the time, but was to break up with Phyllis, who is now my wife. That was the year...that was my junior year, was the year that I was dating her a lot, the year that Jim Elliot before his renaissance was making me feel like a second class citizen. But, I finally felt through the...every message of Stephen Olford's was touching me right on that area of my life, that I've given too much time to this girl. She's blocking...and it wasn't her fault at all, but my concentration on her was blocking my time with the Lord. It was blocking my commitment to the Lord. So, I finally went to Phyllis sometime either during that week or right after it and told her that we wouldn't date anymore, and that'd be it. And that was a tough...boy, that was tough for me because I...I know now in hindsight I was in love with her. I wouldn't have admitted it or known it at the time, but I really was, I'm sure, beginning to be in love with her. But I gave her up completely until close to the end of our senior year. I began...the Lord sort of opened up and I got back with her, so.... But then as...another



thing that happened right after that. Two or three weeks later, they already arranged also for a series of meetings with Dr. Robert Munger, who was a pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California. And...have you ever seen that little book that InterVarsity puts out called *My Heart, Christ's Home*?

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: He preached that message here, probably one of the first times he ever preached it. I've talked to him many, many years later about that. I said, "I heard you give that message at Wheaton College, 1948." He said, "I think that could have been the first time I gave that message." And that was powerful too. I mean, it was that...and that was a marvelous follow-on from Steven Olford. Stephen Olford is a driving, passionate type of preacher who called forth commitment. And Bob Munger was more of a steady Bible expositor who really gave us a depth of scriptural truth. And it was a wonderful combination of that...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...that call to commitment followed by good solid biblical teaching, that this is what builds it...that will hold that commitment. And we all felt, I think, that there was a very, very deep, genuine movement of the Spirit during that year.

ERICKSEN: Were there pockets of...was there part of the campus that was almost in opposition to this sort of thing at the same time?

HOWARD: Yes.

ERICKSEN: Or in opposition to FMF?

HOWARD: Yeah. But they were very small pockets. I think the whole atmosphere of the campus was very much along with that. FMF became under Jim Elliot's leadership the biggest organization on campus. We'd have five hundred, six hundred, sometimes eight hundred students come out. With the student body of fifteen hundred, we were getting a very large segment...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...of the campus out for those things. But there were these others. And I mentioned to you earlier the group that eventually...Dr. Brooks at one point had...did have to...he was forced to expel...

ERICKSEN: Hmm.

HOWARD: ...a small group, eleven or twelve guys., And some of them were almost like campus leaders. But they were in an opposition group. And they were breaking the pledge and going out and carousing, that sort of thing. And they had to be dismissed. Do you know Dr.

Brooks actually was used of God to salvage some of those, 'cause some of those men today are men in positions of key Christian leadership. He brought them back. He let him come back after suspend...suspending him for a period of time. And they were restored. And some of them have today...you would even...I don't think I should mention the names...

ERICKSEN: No.

HOWARD: ...but I could mention the names and you'd know the names of couple of them at least. [laughs]

ERICKSEN: Now your sister had come here the year before you had.

HOWARD: The year before I did, right.

ERICKSEN: What kind of influence did she have on you while you were students here together?

HOWARD: Probably not a whole lot.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: We saw each other, of course, on campus, and occasionally would eat together. And I don't think we ever had many classes together. She was a Greek major. I was a Bible major. But she was always ahead of me in Greek, and so I don't remember even having any Greek classes with her. So, I don't think she had any great major influence on me. We were perfectly friendly...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...but not too intimate at that stage.

ERICKSEN: Now what'd you think when sh...she and your roommate started going out?

HOWARD: Oh, boy. [laughs] That's a...that's a whole story in itself. I'll have to condense this one. [laughs]. I...I guess to my dying day I'll still have some resentments against Jim for what I consider...I still consider it to be hypocrisy on his part at that stage. I recently had written a biographical sketch of him that's been published in a book that John Woodbridge from Trinity...

ERICKSEN: Hmm, hmm.

HOWARD: ...edited for Moody Press called *More Than Conquerors*. He asked me to write the...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ... chapter on Jim Elliot, which I did. And he said, "We want it warts and all." And in that chapter, I've spoken about certain hypocrisy on Jim's part, 'cause Jim would make all the rest of us feel like second-class citizens for even looking at a girl...dating a girl. But when I read Jim Elliot's journals years later, that same period of time when he starts falling in love with Elizabeth, he is writing some of the steamiest things in his journal about what his imaginations...what he's thinking about, even of a physical nature, you know. And to me in those days, even holding hands was practically like committing adultery with a girl, and here Jim was writing these things. But...so what happened was [laughs] I invited him home for Christmas our junior year. His folks were kind of hard up and they couldn't...they couldn't afford to get him home way out to Oregon—he came from Portland. So he wasn't going to go home at Christmas. So I said, "Well, come home with me to New Jersey." So, he did. And it was during that time that he and Elizabeth began to get kind of interested. But I didn't think anything of it. I...I didn't notice this at all.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: And in the coming months, through the spring months, I was totally unaware of the interest that was building up between them. And it hadn't come out in the open at all. And when it did come out...the way it came out on Memorial Day, which would have been, what, the 31st of May of thereabouts, it was a holiday, so we had an FMF picnic out at Northside Park. And we all went out there for breakfast, the FMF kids. And there were quite a lot of us. Jim and I were living in the dorm down the street there in Elliot Hall [sic]. And we...we had a job there. We worked to help earn our way. And our job was to clean the floor, clean the dorm...the...the bathrooms and all on our floor. So, after the breakfast out at Northside Park—it's a holiday—Jim said, "You go on back to the dorm. I'll catch up with you, and you might as well start in and do the cleaning, and I'll catch up with you on the way back." So, I walked all the way back from Northside Park to the dorm. He didn't catch up with me. And I started to clean. I cleaned one bathroom. He didn't come. I cleaned another bathroom. He didn't come. I cleaned...I did the whole job. He never showed up. Lunchtime came, we usually would walk up to the dining together. I was studying in the morning. And I walked up to the dining hall, had lunch. He never came. I went back to the dorm, spent the afternoon studying. It was getting close to exam time. I studied all afternoon. About 5:00 PM he comes in red as a beet, burned...from sunburn. And I said, "For crying out loud, Elliot, where in the world have you been all day?" He said, "Out at Northside Park." I said, "What doing?" He said, "Talking to your sister." I said, "Talking to my sister all day?" He said, "Yeah. Yeah." And I was so taken with his total cel...celibacy that it never dawned on me that there was anything happening here.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: And for the next two weeks that joker...and here's where his hypocrisy came in. We're living together. He went out with her every night for two weeks and I never knew it. Graduation came round, the 13th of June or something like that. And he went out with Elizabeth every single night for two weeks and I never knew it because he...he just didn't dare admit it to me.



ERICKSEN: Huh.

HOWARD: He didn't dare admit that he, the great celibate, was being attracted to a girl. And when I finally found out, the night before graduation, I'd been out with Phyllis. And I came back to the dorm about ten o'clock at night. I was walking into the dorm and he's walking out. And we run into each other in the doorway and I said, "Where are you going Elliot?" He said, "Up to campus." I said, "What for?" He said, "To see your sister." And I thought, "Good night." It...I still didn't click. The next night after graduation exactly the same thing happened. I went out with Phyllis and said goodbye to her, came back to the dorm about ten o'clock and Jim is coming out of the dorm again. And the same thing. I said "Where you going Elliott?" And he said, "I'm up to campus." I said, "What for?" He said, "To see your sister." Well, at that point my thick brain began to catch. I said "Hey, wait a minute. Come on now. What in the world is going on here?" And then it began to come out that he'd been out with her every night for two weeks. And...and I said to him when I finally discovered all this, I said, "You joker! Why in the world didn't you tell me that you're going out with my sister? I'm your best friend! We're living together! And you're going out with my sister! And you've never told me!" And he said, "Well, I didn't know what to say." And I said, [laughs] "Yeah." I'm sure he didn't because he was...he was so embarrassed that his strong celibist...celibate stand was crumbling, and he...he was really hypocritical at that stage. [laughs] And then for the next five years, actually, they had this in-and-out relationship. I mean, they expressed their love to each other here...that...at that time, during that week they...they had a...you know, they really expressed to each other that they really were in love, but far as he was concerned, "We'll probably never get married and we just have to take it that way." And their courtship was a weird one. [both laugh]

ERICKSEN: Okay. Any...is there anything else you want to add about that, or should we move on?

HOWARD: No, that's okay. That's enough.

ERICKSEN: Okay. You mentioned wrestling.

HOWARD: Uh-huh.

ERICKSEN: Any other sports that you were involved in...

HOWARD: Yeah.

ERICKSEN: ...while you were on campus?

HOWARD: Yeah. I lettered for four years in wrestling and I lettered four years in soccer, played soccer in the fall. And....

ERICKSEN: Had you had any exposure to soccer when you were in high school?



HOWARD: Yes. I had gone my first two years of high school in my hometown in Moorestown, [New Jersey], I went to a school that played soccer, so I had played soccer there.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: So, I did know enough of that and I made the varsity my freshman year. And I...I played varsity all four years. And we had a moderately good team at that stage there. Nothing like it's been in later years.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: We only had a few games a season compared to what they do today. But we had fun. It was a good experience for me. It would get me in good shape for wrestling too because soccer takes a lot of running, of course. You run, run, run, run, and you build up your...your steam and your stamina. And when wrestling season came along, I...I was in pretty good shape.

ERICKSEN: Any of the coaches have an influence on you?

HOWARD: Not 'til I was in grad school. And then I...when I was in grad school, I had a...what we called a...a graduate assistantship or fellowship in the Phys Ed Department [Physical Education] coaching wrestling. So, I was the assistant wrestling coach. The coach was George Olson. He'd been my coach and he was still the coach. And George is a good guy. I liked him. I can't say he had a major influence on me.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: But after wrestling season was over, Harv Chrouser, who was athletic director then, called me in. And he said that for the re...for the spring time, in order to keep up your fellowship and get paid for it, he said, "I'll give you two choices. You can either teach a phys ed class in the college or you can be assistant track coach to Gil Dodds." Now does the name Gil Dodds ring any...?

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: You know he was.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

HOWARD: He was our track coach and he was the world champion miler at that time. He held the world record in the mile. And a great guy. And I thought, "Well, I won't learn much teaching a phys ed class, but I could sure learn a lot working under Gil Dodds." I was not a track man. I'd never run track, but I thought, "Well, okay." So, I became Gil Dodds' assistant track coach, not because I could do much coaching...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...but I could do piddly things behind, see. I could keep the time of the guys and keep records and help Gil out a lot. And working with Gil under that...that was great. He was a marvelous guy, just a tremendous man. And he here was, world champion miler, and as humble and down-to-earth and friendly as he could be. And that was a good experience. I...I...I got a lot out of that.

ERICKSEN: Was he a demanding coach?

HOWARD: Yeah, but in a good sort of...not a Vince Lombardi [legendary coach of Green Bay Packers] type of demanding at all. He was a great motivator, but he could do it apparently in a...in a...just a very gracious kind of way. And we had some great guys in those days, some real track men. I mean, outstanding track men. And they were...Whea...Wheaton was winning everything there was to win under Gil Dodds. I mean, they just won just about everything you could think of.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: So, his motivation was very strong, but it was done in a very personal kind of way. He's right down there with you. I mean, he wasn't shouting at you he was working with you and running with you. Of course, he was running a lot himself 'cause he was actually still competing at that time. So, he did a lot of running himself with the guys...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...and encouraging them. He was great encourager. He made you feel that you could do it. He would draw these guys out.

ERICKSEN: Now, in your senior year, you were president of the student body.

HOWARD: Uh-huh.

ERICKSEN: What kind of interaction did you have with Dr. Edman as president? [Howard laughs] And maybe in other capacities too. I shou...I shouldn't limit it to that.

HOWARD: Yeah. Maybe we better record this one separately.

ERICKSEN: Okay.

HOWARD: Yeah, it's a...it's a good question and I would be happy to answer it because it...it comes at a very crucial time.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: I don't know how much of the history of Wheaton you've read it that period of time. Earl Cairns deals with it in his book.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: But...

ERICKSEN: Okay.

HOWARD: ...was nearly...he nearly lost his job that year. And I was very much involved in what went on.

ERICKSEN: Okay.

HOWARD: So....

ERICKSEN: While you were talking about sports, a couple other questions came related back to Jim Elliot and your sister?

HOWARD: Okay

ERICKSEN: While this was going on, did she say anything to you?

HOWARD: No. [laughs] No, never, never, not a word. [laughs] I didn't have a clue from her. And I wouldn't blame her for that 'cause we weren't that close...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...in talking about those kind of things.

ERICKSEN: Yeah.

HOWARD: But Jim, I...you know, I guess I did resent him not ever...

ERICKSEN: Yeah.

HOWARD: ...sharing anything with me. [laughs]

ERICKSEN: Now with their relationship on and off...I mean, where did you en...envision it happening, on or off?

HOWARD: Well, it was...it was both. And I...I didn't know what was going to happen, but I used to get so angry at Jim. I felt he was stringing Elizabeth along. And to a certain degree he probably was, although she would say that, you know, she was with him in this, and she understood.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: But I used to get so angry at him. And I'd say to him, you know, using a colloquial phrase, "It's time to fish or cut bait, one or the other," you know. "Get with it or get out of it. Don't keep stringing her along. If you're going to marry her, marry her. If you're not, say so and get over with it and turn her loose," you know. That kind of thing.

ERICKSEN: How would he react to that?

HOWARD: He would...he didn't...he didn't know how to react. He would simply say, "Dave, all I know is that..."—he'd...he'd put it on a spiritual level—"...that I'm just doing what I believe God wants me to do. I...I can't handle it any other way." [laughs]

ERICKSEN: Hard to argue with that. [laughs]

HOWARD: Yeah, you can't argue with that, but it...it would infuriate me.

ERICKSEN: So what did you think when they finally got married?

HOWARD: Well, we didn't even know they were married [Ericksen laughs] until...we...we knew that they were probably going to get married. And one day, Phyllis and I...we were in Costa Rica then, our first term on the mission field. And Jim and Elizabeth were in Ecuador. They'd gone to Ecuador single, both of them, working in different parts of the jungle. And one day I was in language school and the secretary of the school came and knocked at our classroom door and said, "Mr. Howard, there's somebody out here who wants to see you." And I walked out the front of the school. And here's Elizabeth and Jim standing on a sidewalk in front of the school. And I said, "What in the world are you doing here in Costa Rica?" And they said, we got married last week. [laughs] And they came up to Costa Rica and spent most of their honeymoon with us. [both laugh] Yeah. So...and I...we were just bowled over. I called Phyllis out of her class and she came out. And she nearly fainted too. And, of course, they came and stayed with us for the next week, which was very good because, as it turned out, that's the last time I ever saw Jim as he died only a little over two years after that.

ERICKSEN: What did you enjoy most about being at Wheaton?

HOWARD: That is a great question. I enjoyed so much about it and so many things. And I'm not sure I could list them in...in priority order.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: But I would say this might be priority, the friends that I made at Wheaton have meant so much to me over the years. Today, some of my very best friends still are people that were classmates of mine or contemporaries of mine. And many of them key Christian leaders around the world. And you look at men in positions in Christian leadership today, men my age,

so many of them were here in Wheaton at that time. You know, guys like Jack Frizen of IFMA [Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association] and and Bob Mitchell, who was president of Young Life for some years. And he was a classmate. And Chuck Holsinger, vice president of OC Ministries. And guys like this, they're...we were all classmates, so...and close friends, very close friends. Art Johnston from Tyndale Seminary in the Netherlands, he was a classmate. And these guys to this day are some of my very best friends. So that would be a number one thing. Of course, I found my wife here and that, probably the most important thing that happened to me here. Got a great education. Got a wonderful foundation for my missionary work. The influence of the professors. And the...the athletics. Athletics meant a lot to me, especially wrestling because wrestling is such a tough sport and it...it demands so much. I learned an awful lot just mentally, emotionally, as well as physically. I'm sure did a lot for me physically, but in my years on the mission field when I had to put out physically, trudging through the jungles in Colombia or climbing high mountains in the Andes Mountains in my missionary work, I had a certain amount of physical stamina capability, but I also knew what I could do because I had...I had been through some real tough times in the training and practice and matches in wrestling. And I knew what my limits or my capacity was. And mentally, of course, learn a great deal in that. So, sports meant a lot to me. I'm very th...I've kept close to wrestling, followed wrestling the rest of my life. All three of my sons have been wrestlers. Just last night, Phyllis and I had Pete and June Wilson over for dinner. See, we were teammates, close friends, and then, of course, as he coached here, he coached my sons. My...one of my sons, Steve...my son Steve was captain of the wrestling team here in Wheaton. And...and we've remained very close friends. The years we lived in Singapore and we came back, sometimes in the summer we often stayed in the Wilsons' home. Sometimes other places, but stayed there.

ERICKSEN: What...what have you seen...what's been the most striking change about Wheaton since you were a student here?

HOWARD: Well, probably have to think a lot to say the most. One thing that would come to mind right away is how much even more difficult it is academically now than it was in those days. For example, the library closed in my day at 10:00 PM or maybe 9:30. But it closed at 10:00 and everybody went home. And there was no argument or no problem. But I understand today students are...I don't know what time the library is closed, but they're open late at night.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: And you know, if you went into the library on Saturday in my day, if you found six students there, you'd...you might be surprised. I guess you go into the library today on Saturdays, and it's probably jammed. But either way, they have to work. And that's what....

ERICKSEN: I take it you saw this in your kids.

HOWARD: Yeah. Yeah, we did. Uh-huh. That would be one thing. 'Course the whole atmosphere...the society is so different today. I mean, society as a whole is very different from what it was then. I...I noticed...when we came back from the mission field in the late '60s, I came...we lived here in Wheaton. And I just started...I came back from the field 1968, '69. And,



of course, that was a tough period in the whole...the whole ethos of what society was then. That was the anti-Vietnam period.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: And...and campuses were being blown up right and left. And the...the Wheaton student body then was very...very different from what it was in my day. Now today, I understand and I see from my own observation a much more spiritual-type outlook on the campus than there was in the early '70s. That was a low time, a tough time, boy. I always admired how Dr. Armerding held the college together in those tough days. That was a really rough time. And...but today, again, I like the...the World Christian Fellowship. It's...I understand it's big and active today.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: Back in the '70s, it was...half a dozen kids would get together. Now I understand it's up in the hundreds again like it was in our day. So there's some similarities there.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh. Okay. Now, in between finishing your...your bachelor's degree and coming back for grad school, you worked for InterVarsity.

HOWARD: Right.

ERICKSEN: How did that come about?

HOWARD: [laughs] Well, Stacey Woods, who was the founder of InterVarsity in the States...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...he and Charles Troutman actually brought InterVarsity to the States from Canada in the 1939, '40 period. He used to come to campus periodically. He spoke here couple times while I was in college. And I don't know how Stacey found out about me or what he...where he got ahold of me. But he was another one of these men, like that Dr. [Pierre] Debose that I mentioned, who had a gift of finding people who he felt could be leaders or could have...he'd find key people. And one time when he was here for some meetings in chapel, he asked to see me. And so, I had a interview with him. And he talked with me about InterVarsity and so on. And later on, he asked me to consider coming on InterVarsity staff when I finished college. And I told him...I said, "Well Stacey, I think God's leading me to the mission field." He said, "that's fine." He said, "I have no problem with that." He said, "But give us a...give us a couple of years with InterVarsity. Come on staff and work with us." And so I prayed about it over the next year or two, and when I graduated felt that would be a good thing to do. And he said, "We won't make you a regular InterVarsity staff member. We'll make you missions staff member," which was a new position. They'd never had a mission staff before. They had a missions secretary, the man who was in charge of the whole missions emphasis in there. But he was a full-time staff. And he was usually a somewhat older person.

ERICKSEN: Oh, was that David Adeney at that point?

HOWARD: Well, later.

ERICKSEN: Okay.

HOWARD: Later he filled it. At that time, it was [J.] Christy Wilson...

ERICKSEN: Okay.

HOWARD: ...who was the director of the first Urbana in Toronto. And then following him was a man in Norton Sterrett from India. He was on for a couple of years as missions secretary. And then following that was Wesley Gustafson, who had been an Evangelical Free Church missionary in China. So, they said, "We'll make you missions staff member or missionary staff member, and your pur...your primary responsibilities," instead of like a normal InterVarsity staff member who concentrates on a few campuses or certain area, they made me staff member for the whole country for missions, an which included Canada in those days, 'cause Canada and U.S. were one movement in InterVarsity.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: They later became independent. So, I traveled that whole year. I lived out of a suitcase, literally. I traveled all over the U.S. and most of Canada in one year. I visited around a 120 campuses. I kept a record of it. And I went to about 120 schools, some Christian colleges with FMF chapters and many university campuses where I was talking to them...or trying to help students face up to their responsibility to missions. I couldn't go as a missionary with any missionary experience. In those days there were no Short Terms Abroad.

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: None of us had ever going overseas. And I didn't...had never been outside the country. So my approach was more a peer-to-peer like it would have been here on campus. I would talk to them about loo...facing up to God's responsib...God's commands on their life, their responsibilities. And I have evidence today that in spite of the fact that I was very young and had never been a missionary or anything, the Lord used that. I've...a couple of times I ran into...one I came back from the mission field, many years later...in fact, [claps hands] just out in Singapore within the last couple of years, a couple of men there were telling me...they mentioned someone in their mission. This was New Tribes Mission. And they mentioned a fellow whom I couldn't identify. And they said, "Well, back in 1950 he was a student at Central Washington University out in Washington, and you visited the campus. And he says to this day God used you to turn his whole life around. The direction he was headed was something else and he's now been a missionary for many years under New Tribes Mission," apparently as a result of a brief visit I had on his campus. I remember visiting that school. And I remember having a fairly

in depth talk with a couple of guys. And he was probably one of them. Why, I wouldn't know if I saw him on the street today.

ERICKSEN: How did you feel about how the year had gone when you had completed this whirlwind circuit?

HOWARD: Well, I felt it was a good experience for me. I...I felt and I still feel, I got a lot more out of it than InterVarsity got out of me. I mean, I was young and new and had never been a missionary. And I don't know how much impact I made. I'm sure there were a few cases like the one I've just mentioned. But I learned a lot. It was a very good experience, just the exposure to the outside world, to university campuses...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...and exposure to students. And then even geographically, just the fun of traveling all over the country. We traveled by train and bus in those days. We never did any flying. And I lived out of a suitcase. But it was...was a very valuable experience, and I was thankful for it.

ERICKSEN: Now it doesn't sound like if you were traveling that much you had much interaction with the leadership of InterVarsity at that point. Is that...?

HOWARD: Well, yeah, I did actually, because I would periodically come back to Chicago and meet with Stacey Woods, and particularly Charlie Troutman...

ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: ...who was the associate general secretary at that time. You have Charlie's papers here, don't you?

ERICKSEN: Yeah.

HOWARD: Yeah. He was a great guy. I...he...he was another man who had a profound influence on my life. And starting at that period of time I would stay in his home when I'd come back through Chicago. They lived out in Geneva at that time. And whenever I came through Chicago, I almost always stayed with the Troutmans in Geneva. He was a wonderfully godly man who had a great, great gift of...of listening. He was the world's greatest non-directive counsellor you ever saw. [Ericksen laughs] He wasn't the kind of man who would ever tell you what to do, but he knew how to ask questions and lead you on and make you think through things. He...marvelous at making people think. I'll never forget...we had staff training with him right after I graduated from Wheaton here and went up to a Campus in the Woods in New Yo...in Canada, which was InterVarsity's camp in those days. There were fifteen or twenty of us, I guess, who were new staff being trained...orientation. I'll never forget his...the very first session after the evening session of opening, getting acquainted. First morning when we're going to get into things, he started out...he turned to one of the guys, and he said, "John, why do you believe in God?" And this guy sat there and I don't think he moved for fifteen minutes and didn't

say a word. And Charlie didn't say another word. He just said, "Why do you believe in God?" And the fellow sat and sat. And we all sat. And I don't think anybody said anything for fifteen minutes. In hindsight, I was so thankful hadn't asked me, 'cause I was fresh out of Wheaton College, Bible major. And if he'd asked me that, I'd have spouted out right away my canned answers. I would have given the ontological and teleological and all kinds of other arguments for the existence of God that I had learned in theology here, which wouldn't have been right at all, in one sense. What he was doing was...he was forcing us to think through the most basic issue of life for us as staff members. And we spent that whole morning just talking. Finally, after...once we got started talking about that one question, why we believed in God. And that's the way Charlie was, you see. He...he didn't tell us anything. He didn't do lecturing. He just asked one question, and then we were off. But he had a lot of influence on me too. And partway through that year, I...as I got closer to my wedding...I was engaged...I got engaged that summer after college.

ERICKSEN: After graduation.

HOWARD: After graduation, September, I got engaged right as I was just starting with InterVarsity. And towards the end of the year in the spring—we were going to get married in July—I went through what a lot of young fellows go through. I went through the cold-feet syndrome where I began to question the, you know, "Oh, boy. Do I really want to take this step? Is this what I really want to do?" You know. I began to think through the heavy implications of this. And I was getting worried and kind of backing off. And it was really throwing me. And I was very...began to get upset emotionally and struggling with this. And it was very heavy. And somehow or other, word of this got the Charlie Troutman. Nobody knew. I think my mother found out. I think I had told my mother somehow or other. And she called Charlie out here [Ericksen laughs] in Chicago. She thought I was having a nervous breakdown, which I wasn't at all. But she thought I was really in bad shape. And if that's going to stop [recorder coming to end of available tape], why,

ERICKSEN: No, we got...we've got a little room, so go ahead.

HOWARD: So, Charlie called me up. When I was down...I'd been traveling around and on the West Coast and down through the Southeast, and I was coming back up through Missouri and into southern Illinois. This is towards the end of the year; this about middle of May. And I'm supposed to get married around the 1st of July. So, I was really...Charlie called me up. He didn't say what he was...he said, "Dave, I'd like to come see you tomorrow. Is that okay? You...can I come see you tomorrow?" So, he drove all the way down there somewhere in southern Illinois, from here just to see me. And when he got there, we chatted a little bit. And then he said, "Well Dave," he said, "your mother called me last night." Well, then I knew right away. And he said, "Now," he said, "I just want you to know, I don't want to ask any questions. And if this is none of my business, you just tell me it's none of my business. I'll get right back in my car and drive right back Chicago right now. But on the other hand, if I can be of any help, why, that's why I'm here." And, of course, it was true. I needed that. I needed to talk to somebody. I needed a spill it all out. I hadn't told anybody other than my mother in my letter, I guess.



ERICKSEN: Uh-huh.

HOWARD: And so he spent the day with me, basically listening and asking me leading questions. And then he said, "Okay, Dave." He said, "Look, it's time for you...you need some rest. Come on up to my home in Geneva and just stay there for a while." So, I did. I canceled some...some of the further engagements I had, came up here and spent a week in their home in Geneva. And he and his wife just very graciously and helpfully listened to me. [perhaps Ericksen signals it is time to stop the interview] Okay.

END OF TAPE

