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Herald of Truth

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Aims and Purposes of Herald of Truth Programs Restated

Herald of Truth
AIMS + PURPOSES

INTRODUCTION

I am very thankful to be able to share the concerns and convictions of the elders of the Highland church in Abilene who oversee the planning and production of all Herald of Truth programs.

This article restates our aims and purposes for preaching the gospel by means of radio and television.

Art Haddox

Elder

*Highland Church of Christ
Abilene, Texas*

Twenty-one. It's hard to believe that this Herald of Truth ministry is twenty-one years old. That makes it one of the longest-running religious programs on radio and television.

But, we realize that is nothing to boast about — even if it is an exciting thought. The apostle Paul says it well in II Cor. 5:18, "But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation . . ." Paul is saying that God has placed in the hands of Christians the task of reconciling our fellowman unto God. That is the only provision He has made. Paul also says in II Cor. 4:7, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves." We are God's workmanship and through us must come the teaching of the gospel of Christ with God receiving all the

glory. What is really important is that for twenty-one years this nation has been able to tune in each week and hear a reassuring voice speak of hope and salvation.

The task has not been an easy one. These years have not been easy years. The nation to which we spoke was experiencing some of its most turbulent years. It was only yesterday that many of our cities were aflame, riots raged in the streets, men marched for their causes, war dragged on in Viet Nam.

And, it was also during these years that the church experienced some of her severest trials. From without, men accused her, fought her. From within, many were disgruntled, some cried for change, some left. No, it has not been easy.

GOSPEL PRESENTED

Yet, through all these years of strain and struggle, we have presented through the Herald of Truth ministry a calm, quiet statement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, man's only hope. Each Sunday morning, a troubled, lost nation could tune in and hear a sincere and compassionate voice speak confidently of God's love and plan for men and women. We avoided extremes and wild fringes. Errors of religious division were exposed. The godless materialism of our society was attacked. The

immorality that had become so acceptable was condemned. Our aim was to speak the Gospel faithfully, consistently and steadily. That was what was needed.

We realize that we have not done the job perfectly; nevertheless, thousands of you have consistently encouraged and strengthened us. The media people, also have encouraged us. They gave us high marks on the quality of our programming.

But, most of all, we thank God for all of those who have heard the Gospel of Christ on these programs. We meet many who have been influenced by these messages, some of whom were found and baptized into Christ. Only eternity can reveal the full story.

PROBLEMS FACING US

Now, the task is continuing. And the task of evangelism is not getting any easier. For one thing the religious world in general continues in its state of confusion. Thousands have simply lost confidence in religion altogether, feeling it can no longer be trusted because of the religious division and confusion. Modernism, as well, has shaken the people's confidence in God and the Bible.

Another difficulty is the total absence of absolutes in our society. People are living as though there is no standard of authority — either morally or religiously.

Further complicating matters is the feeling that science is God, that it will somehow rescue and

save man. It causes men to trust in themselves, in their own riches.

And we haven't even mentioned the strains and tensions felt by churches of Christ during these difficult times. Elders are struggling to be faithful to the Lord. Preachers are struggling to be faithful to the Word of God. Christians, in general, are trying to find strength to live.

All of this makes it easy for good people to fall into extremes. Some have taken a highly subjective approach to religion which has resulted in "tongue-speaking" as well as other emotion-oriented trends. This is a false approach and it denies objective New Testament truth.

OUR POSITION

Where are we in all of this? Where are Herald of Truth Radio and Television programs? We are determined to continue the faithful presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to avoid false practices, to continue to present unswervingly to our age the beauty and message of the Bible.

To that end **we remain committed to the authority of the Word of God, the Bible.** We rest completely on the solid, absolute authority of the inspired and inerrant Scriptures. We have no other hope. We are keenly aware of the open attacks on the Bible, on its inspiration, its account of the creation of man and the world, the virgin birth and the resurrection of Christ. These attacks must be rejected; the Bible must be accepted as the sole authority.

We remain committed to Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. He is the only way to God. Man must be called upon to believe in Him with all of their heart, to turn away from sin and its power through repentance, to confess His name before men, and be baptized for the remission of sins. This is God's plan, and His only plan, for man's obedience.

We are committed to the church which Jesus built. We are aware that many believe she is irrelevant and non-essential. We are aware that some would so re-order her devotion to the Word of the Lord as to mute her voice for righteousness and obscure her biblical identity. The church is not a denomination and must never be allowed to become such. Never have we loved the church more and never have we been more determined to see her faithfully preaching the Gospel and serving.

We are committed to the restoration principle. These times demand more than ever that we be faithful to the plea: "Let us speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where it is silent." The New Testament is the divine pattern for what God expects the church to be in every generation. The church must not practice anything that is not expressly authorized in the New Testament.

Every generation has the solid obligation to emphasize the return to the faith and practice of the New Testament. Only in that way is there any solution for the problem of religious division; only

in that way is there hope for the restoration of New Testament Christianity.

The restoration principle includes baptism for the remission of sins; recognizes the Lord's Supper observed, according to the New Testament, only on the first day of the week; practices only the use of vocal music in worship, respecting the total absence of any trace of instrumental music in the New Testament; accepts local churches as free and autonomous with Christ honored as Head, His Word her only rule of faith and practice, and elders as the Shepherds of the flock. The day must not come when these things are not preached and practiced faithfully.

We are likewise solidly committed to pure and faithful Christian living. Worldliness has always been a problem to churches. In these days of moral and spiritual laxity it is even more of a problem. We must not be like the nations around us. Our morals must be directed by the holiness of the God whom we serve. Never has there been a greater need for the preaching of God's holiness. Nothing will speak more directly to the immorality of our age.

We are dedicated to these matters clearly and unequivocally. We believe you are dedicated to the same things. Therefore, the Herald of Truth ministry will continue to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, respecting each of these matters.

OUR AIMS

Twenty-one years have passed

since we began. We've learned a lot and still have a lot to learn. We haven't been perfect in all that we've done; but, we can tell you that with all our hearts we have tried to be faithful. We have tried to present programming that honored Christ and His Word, programming that you respected and would be happy to invite your friends and neighbors to watch and hear. We have wanted to be a faithful voice that was stable and hopeful and loving and encouraging.

A program that would bring hope to the thousands who live in continual pain and suffering; a program to teach and encourage those who, because of physical disabilities and age, have few other opportunities to hear the Gospel; a program that would speak to those who are searching for truth, that would inspire them to write to us so we could continue teaching by mail as well as contacting you for local follow-up — this has been our aim.

We believe we are better prepared to do this work than we've ever been. Twenty-one years have taught us much. We can see both strengths and weaknesses, mistakes and successes. We are building upon that foundation to make a better program.

THE FUTURE

The task isn't easy. Never have we needed your prayers more. Working with the media of radio and television has many problems. Sometimes it's very difficult to

know how to use them best. But, we must not let the difficulties frighten us. And we refuse to lay down the challenge simply because it is not easy. This is a job that must be done. We do not shirk the responsibility; rather, we honor the trust you've placed in us.

VICTORY IS SURE

The Gospel is going to prevail. The church of our Lord is going to continue. Our Lord revealed in the Bible is victorious. Defeatism will not characterize us. The times are hard, yes, that is true, but that only means we must try harder, be more faithful to our Lord.

Exciting things lie ahead. We think you will be excited too.

Through the avenues of radio and television, pulpits and printed page, let us all continue to send forth the Word of our God, to tell of victory through our Lord Christ and to call men of all tribes and nations to come and obey Him and worship Him.

**Herald
Of
Truth**



Radio and Television Programs
P.O. Box 2439 Abilene, Texas 79604
Produced by Highland Church of Christ