

# TRUTH TALK


A PUBLICATION OF THE WORD FOR LIFE

Helping you live a God-centered, truth-driven life

May, 2010

**Missionary Statesman:  
The Life and Labors of David Livingstone  
David – The Fall  
*TWFL* Station Log**





**THE Word FOR Life**  
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*Join us as we “take a break” from  
Psalm 119  
for a few months  
to study some  
topics that are relevant for today.*

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for your  
prayers and support!*

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# TRUTH TALK

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## *Missionary Statesman* *“The Life and Labors of David Livingstone”*

Some years ago I became committed to the idea of selecting one great missionary figure and, during the course of the year, reading at least one or more good biographies on his life and ministry. This practice has proved to be a rich source of information by which my knowledge of that man’s life, in particular, and the cause of missions, in general, has been greatly expanded. More importantly, these biographies have had a profound spiritual and devotional impact on my personal walk with God and my commitment to Great Commission living. For example, I have been deeply impacted by reading the life account of men like Adoniram Judson and Hudson Taylor.

This year, I determined to read up on the life of the great Missionary Statesman, David Livingstone. I turned to two excellent works on his life that were already in my possession as a starting point. I read the biographical sketch by J. E. Chambliss entitled *The Life and Labors of David Livingstone*, which was published in 1875 and is now out of print. This work was quite detailed in its accounting of Livingstone’s travels and geographical expeditions. While it did treat his missionary endeavors, Chambliss clearly focused on what the English speaking world had concluded about Livingstone – that he was a famous explorer and cartographer, mapping out the uncharted

regions of Africa, the Dark Continent.

Another helpful work focusing more on the spiritual endeavors of Livingstone is the short popular biography in the Heroes of the Faith series, written by Sam Wellman entitled *David Livingstone, Missionary and Explorer*. Wellman does a wonderful job presenting Livingstone's commitment, not to merely explore Africa, but to reach the African people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Wellman crafts his biography around the well-known statement about Livingstone, "The smoke of a thousand villages beckoned him . . . and where there's smoke, there someday would be fire." His brief biography is excellent for an overview of Livingstone's life and ministry and would be the kind of work that would be suitable for a youth group or committed Christian teenager to read.

By far the best biography on the life of Livingstone is W. Garden Blaikie's book entitled *The Personal Life of David Livingstone*. Initially published in 1880 by

Flemming H. Revell Company, Blaikie's work was republished by Negro Universities Press in 1969. Unfortunately this work is currently out of print. I purchased my copy from one of many websites on the internet dedicated to out-of-print or hard to find titles at a very reasonable price.

One of the features which makes Blaikie's biography invaluable is the use of extensive quotations that are drawn from Livingstone's journal entries and correspondence. He weaves Livingstone's own thoughts in with the narrative so skillfully that one finds himself drawn up in the story and transported back in time to the caravan traveling with Livingstone through Africa. The images are so vivid and the narrative so compelling that it is as though one were standing next to Livingstone and hearing him speak. David Livingstone was born to Christian parents living in the small Scottish village of Blantyre in 1813. Raised by good Christian parents, David was quick to learn to read and write and demonstrated his aptitude as a student early on in life. He was awarded a New Tes-

tament at the age of nine for reciting by memory the entire Psalm 119. At the age of twelve, he became concerned about his state as a sinner, but it would not be until he was in his early twenties that he made his salvation sure. It was during these years that he became committed to the concept of spending his life for the Lord as a foreign missionary. Blaikie records this event in the following paragraph.

*At first he had no thought of being himself a missionary. Feeling that the salvation of men ought to be the chief desire and aim of every Christian, he had made a resolution that he would give to the cause of missions all that he might earn beyond what was required for his subsistence. The resolution to give himself came from his reading an Appeal by Mr. Gutzlaff to the Churches of Britain and America on behalf of China. It was the claims of so many millions of his fellow-creatures, and the complaints of the scarcity, of the want of qualified missi-*

*onaries, that led him to aspire to that office. From that time—apparently his twenty-first year—his efforts were constantly directed toward that object without fluctuation (p. 30).*

Livingstone prepared himself for this task by pursuing and completing a medical degree from the University at Glasgow. Intending initially to go to China as a missionary, he applied as a candidate to the London Missionary Society. After provisional acceptance, he was denied his initial desire to go to China and appointed instead to go and serve the Lord and represent the Society in Africa. Early on in his early years of training, one enduring mark of David Livingstone's character began to surface – his absolute commitment to keeping his given word. This character quality would stand him in great stead as a representative of Christ to heathen lands where honor and integrity were virtually unknown concepts. One brief example is a promise he made as a student to one of his professors, Mr. Owen, that when he got to Africa he

would bear his instructor in mind if he should come across any “curiosities” in his travels. Years passed and Mr. Owen was disposed to consider this promise just another among the many that were made to him by former students. However, upon Livingstone’s first return to England, he visited Mr. Owen and presented him a curiously curved elephant tusk that he had found in the heart of Africa and had transported at no minor inconvenience all that way back to Glasgow for Mr. Owen’s collection (p. 49).

Upon arrival in Africa, Livingstone anxiously awaited directions from the Society as to his permanent place of ministry. He wrote these words to a friend back home, “*Whatever way my life may be spent so as but to promote the glory of our gracious God, I feel anxious to do it . . . My life may be spent as profitably as a pioneer as in any other way*” (p. 58). During these first two years of ministry in Africa, two events occurred that profoundly impacted Livingstone for the rest of his ministry and in many ways served as the impetus for a life-long commitment to

reaching Africa for Christ. While visiting with the Bamangwato tribe in the great Kalahari desert, he witnessed a gruesome lion attack on a native woman.

*A woman was actually devoured in her garden during my visit, and that so near the town that I had frequently walked past it. It was most affecting to hear the cries of the orphan children of this woman. During the whole day after her death the surrounding rocks and valleys rang and re-echoed with their bitter cries. I frequently thought as I listened to the loud sobs, painfully indicative of the sorrows of those who have no hope, that if some of our churches could have heard their sad wailings, it would have awakened the firm resolution to do more for the heathen than they have done (p. 63).*

Interestingly enough, Livingstone himself would suffer a severe injury from a lion attack later on in his ministry which would maim his arm and mark him for life.

The second event took place when the chief of the tribe, Sekomi, paid him a visit in his hut.

*On one occasion Sekomi, having sat by me in the hut for some time in deep thought, at length addressing me by a pompous title said, "I wish you would change my heart. Give me medicine to change it, for it is proud, proud and angry, angry always." I lifted up the Testament and was about to tell him of the only way in which the heart can be changed, but he interrupted me by saying, "Nay, I wish to have it changed by medicine, to drink and have it changed at once, for it is always very proud and very uneasy, and continually angry with someone." He then rose and went away (p. 63).*

Blaikie's book goes on to recount Livingstone's many expeditions and the incidents that occurred to him and around him during these journeys. You will wonder as you see Victoria Falls through Livingstone's eyes – the first time they

were ever seen by a white man. You will feel every step of the trail and sense the exhaustion and physical weariness that was his constant companion for the almost forty years spent in Africa.

You will meet his lovely wife and come to know his children. From the daughter buried in African soil after only a few weeks to the son who ran away from a boarding school in England to find his father and ended up as a soldier in the Union Army during the War between the States. He died on the battlefield at Gettysburg. The tender moments and affections exchanged between David and his wife Mary will stir your heart as you realize the great sacrifice that was made for the cause of the gospel by this couple who were deeply committed to each other and even more committed to what they perceived God had called them to suffer for his sake.

While there may be a better way to carry out such a missionary endeavor as a family today given modern communication, medicine, and transportation, in those days to go where God sent

Livingstone was, in effect, a death sentence for small children. Throughout the book there are many references to other couples who lost children and wives to illness and to the dreaded fever spread by the Testes Fly for which there was no reliable cure at that time.

You will read of his two visits to England and his final journey back to Africa with Mary and their youngest son. Mary would die and be buried in African soil not many years after his final return to the land he had come to love as home.

For several years he was presumed lost until an American journalist undertook an expedition to settle the matter. The details of the famous meeting between Stanley and Livingstone are worth the price of the book.

His final days and the discovery of his body kneeling by his bed in prayer give evidence that Livingstone never lost his passion for missions. His heart was buried in Africa but his body was embalmed and transported back

across the African Continent and then on to England, where he was given a state funeral and buried at Westminster Abbey.

Perhaps no one passage in the book better depicts the motivation that fueled Livingstone's passion for reaching Africa for Christ than the following account of a discussion he had with Sechele, one of the more powerful village chiefs early on in his ministry in Africa:

*“Since it is true that all who die unforgiven are lost forever, why did your nation not come to tell us of it before now? My ancestors are all gone, and none of them knew anything of what you tell me. How is this?” “I thought immediately,” says Livingstone, “of the guilt of the church, but did not confess. I told him that multitudes in our own country were like himself, so much in love with their sins. My ancestors had spent a great deal of time in trying to persuade them, and yet after all many of the by refusing were lost. We now wish to tell all the world*

*about a Saviour, and if men did not believe, the guilt would be entirely theirs” (p. 69).*

These words penetrated deep into my own heart and caused me to reflect on my own guilt in failing to tell those that God has called me to reach. Combined with the “rest of the story,” the reader is

left with a heart stirring and soul searching question – what would God have me to do about reaching the world for Christ. It is the reading of such a call that produced a Livingstone for Africa. Perhaps another Livingstone will be stirred and produced by the reading of his life story.



*Dr. Sam Horn is the featured teacher and Host of The Word For Life, Senior Pastor of Brookside Baptist Church in Brookfield, Wisconsin, and Vice President of Ministerial Training at Northland International University in Dunbar, Wisconsin.*



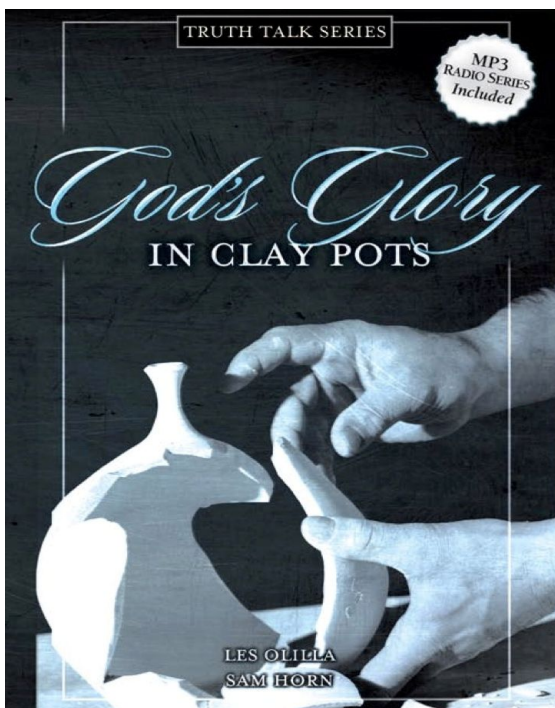
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# NEW BOOK RELEASE!

## *GOD'S GLORY IN CLAY POTS*

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*God's Glory in Clay Pots* is the first book in our Truth Talk Series and includes an audio MP3 disc of the six original Radio Series discussions between Dr. Les Ollila and Pastor Sam Horn which were the inspiration for this new book. Order your copy today – individual copies are available for \$15.60, which includes shipping and handling within the continental United States.

# DAVID ~ THE FALL

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## *Life is a Vapor – Part 13*

*Join Pastor Sam Horn (SH) and Dr. Les Ollila (LO) for a discussion that originally aired on THE WORD FOR LIFE.*

SH: We're back again for another edition of the Word for Life radio broadcast. My co-host is here with me – Dr. Les Ollila, Chancellor of Northland International University. Doc, we have been looking at the life of David from the perspective of how to make our lives count.

For the last number of broadcasts, we've been talking about the covenants that David made – covenants with his eyes about what he would watch, covenants with his mouth about the words that he would say.

Those external things are really premised on the inner foundation

of a right perspective of God, the covenant to worship properly.

Then, David made a covenant about his own private walk in his home, as he longed for God's presence.

This morning we're going to talk about a more difficult side of David's life and explore why this situation happened. I'm referring to the fall that happened toward the end of David's life. In past broadcasts we looked at the beginning, but now we're fast-forwarding to the end, and we're going to see what happened to David when he broke specifically the covenant with his eyes, but presumably more than just that.

LO: It is a challenge to all of us as we get older that the battles do not get easier, they get greater. My wife and I were talking the other night about how, as we get older, it would seem that the battles should get easier. God gives strength and grace, but growing in the Christian life is never easy, and there are always decisions that have to be made in that growth process.

SH: It never stops.

LO: No, but the tendency is to relax. You're older, your children are grown, you have now a number of grandchildren, and you feel that you can now relax. I think the lesson we learn from David in this is that there is no time to relax. There is no time to let down our guard.

SH: It's a battle all the way through, isn't it.

LO: God used Amos to give a picture of this. Amos was a herdsman from Tekoa, and as he went up to the Northern Kingdom to deliver the message of coming judgment, it was the furthest thing

from their mind. There was no hint of judgment coming because they had survived all the attackers up to this point.

SH: In fact, they were living in prosperity at this point.

LO: Great prosperity, and they couldn't see that it was going to end...that judgment was going to come. Then Amos came and he seemed just a noisemaker. They paid no attention, because externally they were worshiping, giving, singing, sacrificing. Everything was going on externally just fine, but to get the point across,

God gave Amos this picture. In Amos 5:19 he said, "As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? Even very dark, and no brightness in it?"

He was speaking of the Day of the Lord coming...the judgment that was coming. It wasn't bothering them, because they were so dulled

that they couldn't understand that the message was coming to them.

SH: It sounds just like our age, doesn't it?

LO: Right. We are in prosperity and in plenty. We are plagued with the world's view in the church, and we don't realize it.

SH: That's the scary part, that we could actually be like the Northern Kingdom and be resting in our external worship...being so technically correct, if you will...that we miss the point that you're making here. The imagery of the bear and the lion and the serpent...I don't know that I'd necessarily thought through that before. But can you paint that picture a little more for us?

LO: Lions and bears and serpents were frequently mentioned. Remember the bears that came out when the kids were making fun of Elijah? God uses a picture that is familiar to them. They were familiar with bear, they were familiar with lions, familiar with serpents.

What he says to the Northern Kingdom is that they have escaped up to this point. It was as if a man did flee from a lion and had gotten away, but they'd forgotten that by God's grace they'd gotten away and not by their own hand. Then they went into the hand of the bear and they got away from the bear.

Speaking at educators' conferences, I would often picture the lion as perhaps government intrusion coming into our lives. And the bear... you remember years ago on the cover of Time Magazine there was a great big bear hanging over the nation of Israel...the bear of communism and the communistic philosophy that was going to find its vehicle to travel to the United States through the public education system. So this pictured humanism.

We've protected our children from humanism, of the attacks they've survived, but what we cannot control is what the children allow into their individual hearts. We can protect them externally from governmental intrusion, we can protect them from humanism

by cloistering them either at home schools or cloistering them in Christian schools, but we cannot determine what is going on in the hearts of those children. It is only their decision as they face God individually regarding what they're going to let into their lives.

What happened with David? He saw the deliverance. In fact, we discussed in an earlier broadcast David's testimony in I Samuel 17, which gave him confidence against Goliath. He said, "I was tending my father's sheep and a lion came and I killed the lion, and a bear came and I killed the bear."

SH: Same images here. Wow!

LO: Same images. But what caused David to sin? He was at home relaxed now, as an older person.

SH: So, you're saying a serpent.

LO: A serpent. Where was he? We read about it in Amos... "and he went into his house, having escaped the lion and the bear, leaned

his hand upon the wall and a serpent bit him." Now, that serpent first showed up in the Garden of Eden and in the first home.

That serpent will get us in our homes, and we have to discern where that serpent is showing himself while we are in a state of relaxation. The serpent got them in the Garden of Eden, which should have been the greatest place of safety. And here was David. What did he do? He rose up from a nap. But why was he there? It was a time when kings go forth to battle, but David relaxed.

SH: Where was David supposed to be?

LO: He was supposed to be at the battle.

SH: Leading the troops.

LO: He was King. The Bible says it was a time when kings went forth to battle, but David tarried still in Jerusalem. I have a hunch that he had earlier violated the covenant regarding his eyes. I don't think that was the first time

that he had seen Bathsheba. I think he started presumptuously planning.

SH: We typically hear this story how David was home, and he got up and he just happened to be on his roof taking in the fresh air...which would be typical of how it happened in Old Testament Israel...and he just happened to glance over and saw a woman bathing.

But there do seem to be hints in the text of what you're saying... that this wasn't just an innocent stroll on the roof for fresh air. There may have been more involved here.

LO: David was always responsible. As King, he never backed away from his responsibilities. But in this case he did. Why wasn't he in the battle? What a lesson that is for us. We cannot tolerate what God says to get rid of.

SH: Maybe he was tired. Maybe he just didn't feel like going into battle that day.

LO: Yes, but that was so unlike David, unless something else had slipped in.

SH: I think about our own lives. How many times, as Christians, do we presumptuously do something that causes us to back away from our ministry and to relax. We escaped the bear and we escaped the lion, and we're proud about those things and then right in the midst of our home we fall, like you're saying.

LO: Yes, it's in the state of relaxation....that is, we let our guard down, and the serpent slips in. I believe in David's case that he had almost premeditated this by virtue of the fact that he was out of his place of responsibility.

Whenever people back out of the place of responsibility, they're setting themselves up for something that's going to take them away from their heart and love for God. Certainly David fits the picture. Though he testified that he killed a bear and a lion, we see the tragedy that comes into David's life because of the serpent.

Through disobedience, we walk right into the trap that Satan sets.

SH: He tolerated it. He tolerated it in his life.

LO: Right.

SH: What kind of things do we tolerate?

LO: In speaking to pastors, I always say that our ministry direction is not set primarily by what we teach, but by what we tolerate.

Ephraim's life would be a great case study for that, because in Joshua 16:10 God tells them to drive the Canaanites out, but then we read, "and the Ephraimites drove not out the Canaanites but dwelt among them that they might use them as servants." The things we tolerate that serve our flesh will become our traps.

Life ministry directions are set by what we tolerate. You might say the preaching is just tremendous, but you have to wade through the music program. I know where that church is going. It's going in the direction of that music pro-

gram, not the direction of the preaching.

SH: We had a young man visit recently, and I talked to him about why he was attending our church. It's kind of humbling. He said, "I'm here for the music. I'm here because I enjoy the music." Obviously we're very thankful for the music program, but he made an interesting comment. He said, "I'm tired of going to church where every Sunday, in order to feed my soul, I have to feed my flesh. I struggle all week long to get rid of certain behaviors, but I show up for church on Sunday morning and in an attempt to feed my soul from the Word, I end up feeding my flesh."

So, you're exactly on target when you talk about the whole concept of what we tolerate, and we tolerate it in the name of growing a church to glorify God.

LO: You look at Balaam...some of the most God-exalting passages are Balaam's curses. Obviously it wasn't the information that Balaam was given, it was his influence that was devastating, because

Balaam tolerated what God says not to tolerate.

Look at Revelation...the church of Thyatira. They were graded A+ in knowledge, A+ in their deeds; however, it says, "Thou sufferest that woman Jezabel." Their candlestick was removed, not because of their actions and academics, but because of what they tolerated.

Move that to the individual life. What we tolerate is going to be our next step to destruction if it is not according to God's will. What God says to get rid of, we dare not tolerate. That is a warn-

ing for all of us, because here was David, a man after God's own heart. He stays on record as a man after God's own heart, but he had to go through a real role of repentance. We find restoration, but also the scars that go along with that. He got careless and violated the covenant with his eyes.

SH: We certainly want to end by reminding our listeners that God did forgive David for this. There is always forgiveness available.

This ends our series on "Life is a Vapor." We trust it has been a blessing to you.



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# RADIO STATION LOG

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- Grand Junction - KCIC 88.5 FM
  - Monday-Friday 7:30 PM

## MINNESOTA

- Minneapolis - WCTS 1030 AM
  - Sunday 2:30 PM
  - Monday-Friday 4:07 PM

## NORTH CAROLINA

- Charlotte - WZRH 960 AM
  - Sunday 2:00 PM
- Raleigh Durham - WDRU 1030 AM
  - Sunday 2:00 PM
- Winston Salem- WTRU 830 AM
  - Sunday 2:00 PM

## OHIO

- Lima - WCBV 105.9 FM
  - Monday-Friday 3:00 PM

## UTAH

- Salt Lake City - KUTR 820 AM
  - Sunday 2:00 PM

## WISCONSIN

- Milwaukee - WVCY 107.7 FM
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  - Mon/Wed/Fri 6:15 AM

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- Guam - KHMG 88.1 FM
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# THE Word FOR Life


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We are so thankful for those of you who have made it part of your lives to join us for The Word For Life radio broadcasts. We invite you to go to our website, [www.thewordforlife.org](http://www.thewordforlife.org), where you can download past daily and weekend broadcasts, as well as previous editions of *Truth Talk*. Our desire is to continue to spread the Word of God to a needy world, helping folks live a God-centered, truth-driven life.

Following is a testimony from one of our listeners:

Dr. O. and Brother Sam, thanks for the fellowship around the Word...my own cup of coffee tastes so much better as I sit and listen early in the morning with you. Thanks for the fellowship, exhortation, encouragement, and excitement to live for our Lord Jesus Christ! Psalm 73:28, “But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.” - John

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*Helping You Live a God-Centered, Truth-Driven Life*

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