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HOURLY OF POWER OF 18.11.2007

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

From the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, join Robert Schuller in an Hour of Power now celebrating our 36th year as the face and voice of positive Christianity to the world.

HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful.."

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day. Amen! Amen! Amen!

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RAS: Good Morning! Do you feel rested today? I would assume so. Everyone likes an extra hour of sleep I think, and so we want to give you an opportunity right now to shake the hands of those who are standing next to you and behind you. Reach out and shake their hands and say God loves you and so do I.

Well we have a wonderful worship service planned today, we have Jim Poit, I think he already taught you a new hymn, is that right? Yeah, well I'm looking forward to hearing that, and my wife Donna is going to be reading the scripture this morning. We have a fabulous guest. His name is Nicky Cruz, he is a former notorious New York gang leader and the inspiring story behind "The Cross and the Switchblade," Nicky we're glad you're here.

We have recording artist and devoted family man Russ Lee, and we have the Crystal Cathedral Choir, and so this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that Your spirit is here in this place this very moment. It is transforming our minds and our thoughts. Its creating positive emotions and it is giving us the ability to realize that You created us, that You love us, that we are Yours. And so in this moment as we stand in Your presence, we give You our thanks, for You are truly a God of tremendous love and grace, and we love You, Amen.

HYMN - "When Morning Guilds the Skies"

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries, may Jesus Christ be praised! Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound, may Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day when from the heart we say, may Jesus Christ be praised! Let earth and sea and sky from depth to height reply, may Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my song of love divine, may Jesus Christ be praised! Let all in one accord now worship Christ the Lord, may Jesus Christ be praised! Christ be praised!

SCRIPTURE – I Chronicles 16 - Donna

DS: Please be seated. Good morning. As we continue with this morning's service, hear the words of King David as he continues to praise the Lord.

Give thanks to the Lord. Call on His name. Make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him. Sing praise to Him. Tell of His wonderful acts. His marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise. Splendor and majesty are before Him. Strength and joy in His dwelling place. Ascribe to the Lord, families of nations. Ascribe to the Lord, glory and strength. Bring an offering and come before Him. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. Let the heavens rejoice. Let the earth be glad. Let them say among the nations, "The Lord Reigns!" Let the sea resound and all that is in it, let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Give thanks to the Lord. For He is good. His love endures forever.

And we know that God will continue to bless us, and continue to bless this service. As we praise and worship Him.

DONNA INTRODUCES CHOIR ANTHEM

DS: And now the choir will continue with one of my favorite hymns, "A Mighty Fortress is our God."

ANTHEM - "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great; and armed with cruel hate on earth is not His equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing, be losing, be losing, our striving, our striving. Did we, did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing.

Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing. Dost ask Who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Most glorious, His name, from age to age the same, and He must win the battle.

A mighty fortress is our God, did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing. A mighty for - A mighty for - A mighty for - A mighty for - A mighty for - A mighty for -

A mighty for - A mighty fortress. A bulwark never failing is our God!

JIM POIT THANK YOU TO CHOIR, MICHAEL & TOM

JP: Wow, that was fantastic. Thank you choir and Michael and Tom. That was just wonderful.

PREP FOR OFFERING/PRAYER - JP

JP: As the ushers come and prepare to receive our tithes and offerings, Donna just read from scripture that we are to come before the Lord and bring our offering.

Let us take a moment as we offer our tithes and our gifts to God. Let us take a moment and ask for God's blessing. Let us pray. Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, Lord there are millions of people all around the world who do not yet know Your love, Your joy, Your peace, Your patience, Your goodness and kindness. Lord, they have not experienced Your grace, Your healing hand upon them and the power and strength that can only come from You. Lord, as we give these gifts, we pray Lord that they may be used by You, that they may bless Your kingdom and that they may touch those lives. Lord, may they be a blessing to You in Jesus name, Amen.

JIM POIT INTRODUCES RUSS LEE

JP: Finally, it is our honor today to welcome recording artist Russ Lee back to the Cathedral. His life and music continue to be an inspiration to those of us here at the Cathedral and people around the world. And this morning, he's going to sing one of my personal favorite songs, "I Smile." Let's welcome Russ Lee.

SOLO – RUSS LEE – "I Smile"

Lost and all alone, looking for a reason for being in this crazy world. Trying to go on, looking for the answers to the questions, and there You were. And from the moment You appeared, everything became so clear. I'm so glad that You're here, Lord.

I smile when I think about the way You turned my life around. I smile when I think about the happiness in You, I've found. I'm so amazed at what Your love has done, and when I think the best is yet to come, I smile. I smile.

Wandering the dark, lost in the confusion, I thought I was losing my mind for sure. I searched with all my heart, looking for direction, something to believe in and there You were. And You were reaching down to me, You were everything I needed, I'm so glad You found me, Lord.

I smile when I think about the way You turned my life around. I smile when I think about the happiness in You I've found. I'm so amazed at what Your love has done, and when I think the best is yet to come, I smile!

And You turned all my gray skies to the brightest blue, My Lord yes, You did. And my life feels like sunshine it's because of You, all because of You that I smile, that I smile.

I smile when I think about the way You turned my life around. I smile when I think about the happiness in You I've found. I'm so amazed at what Your love has done, and when I think the best is yet to come; I smile when I think about the way You've turned my life around, Lord. I smile when I think about the happiness in You I've found. I'm so amazed at what Your love has done, and when I think the best is yet to come, I smile! Well I smile! I smile.

RAS THANK YOU TO RUSS LEE

RAS: Russ, you're terrific!

INTERVIEW – NICKY CRUZ

RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER NC: NICKY CRUZ

RAS: We have as our guest today a fabulous gentleman who I am very honored to have here. Gang violence is a problem today around the world, and according to the 2004 national youth gang survey, 173 cities have reported problems with gang activity. In Los Angeles and Chicago more than half of the combined one thousand homicides were considered to be gang related. Today's guest, Nicky Cruz, is no stranger to that life. As the notorious leader of the violent Mau Maus gang, Nicky Cruz once stalked the streets of New York City. Today, Nicky travels the world taking a message of hope and salvation to broken young people. Nicky's true story became a best seller and a motion picture in 1969 entitled,

“The Cross and the Switchblade” and the forty years that have passed since moving to Christ, Nicky has reached out to thousands of inner city gang members as he speaks to their need from his own experience. Would you please welcome to the Crystal Cathedral Nicky Cruz. Nicky, God loves you and so do I.

NC: Thank you.

RAS: You know, backstage you said, don't look down on me. And I really want to honor that so why don't we go over here, how's that? Is that better? If you stand right here, come over here..

NC: All right, all right oh right, right, right.

RAS: ..there you go. Now we've got it the right way. I can look up to you as I truly do.

NC: Thank you. Thank you. You're too much.

RAS: Well you're terrific, I love you.

NC: Thank you.

RAS: And I'm glad you're here. I'll tell you what I love about you. I love your spirit and your soul. I really do.

NC: Well I'm so happy that I know Christ as my personal savior. My life was very sad. I was born in Puerto Rico. I was born in a witchcraft home. My mother was a witch; I was planted in the wombs of a witch. My father was a satanic priest. And since I was three years old I was abused. Not sexually, but physically and it was very painful because many time I used to wake up in a pool of blood, my nose was broken, my lip was split, my rib was torn apart, my eye was closed because of beating, and it was very painful, very painful.

RAS: So you didn't know love growing up as a child, did you?

NC: I began to hate love. There was no such a thing as love. Because when it did with a mother and a father, it seemed like the mother's more closed. The father is the masculine image of the hero, but that mother had the feeling. And I felt betrayed in that time. And I wasn't the only one in my family; I have a big, big large family, seventeen brother and one sister.

RAS: Seventeen brothers you say?

NC: Oh my father.

RAS: And how many sisters?

NC: One sister.

RAS: And one sister.

NC: Oh my father, believe in love. So when I was nine years old I came to the conclusions because I could not handle it no more, to hang myself in a mango tree in Puerto Rico and I was that close, and it was a force that I could not control because for many years I live in a curse, my generation, my father and for so many generation there was involving in sacrifice of animal, the drinking's of animals Santeria, witchcraft, black magic, that was my, I was elusive in that kind of environment.

So then when I tried to commit suicide when I was nine years old, hanging myself from a mango tree, it was my little brother who really saved me. He was crying so hard. I never heard a crying for a soul that was desperate say, “Don't do it.” And I'm happy that I never jump or sail all the way down because that's one thing I want to say. My mother can really took a pillow and just take my life out of this planet because the way she used to live. I don't know what happened. When I was in the gangs, I commit a lot of mistake, my hair was full of blood, and I was cold, calculated, executed. Didn't care, didn't have no feelings. And yet through all of this my mother, she can kill me, and the gangs I went through showers of bullets, but there's one thing I know. The devil cannot kill me, because I was born to serve the Lord. And that was Lord's answer.

RAS: The Holy Spirit was there when in the voice and the cry of your little brother.

NC: Yes. What I tell you..

RAS: When you went to New York and you immediately were drawn into the gangs, what drew you there?

NC: When you don't have the family, that physical family which is so valuable to you, then here you come to a gang and homeless and sleeping in the street. I don't want to live with my family. I prefer to be called a bastard than to be called Cruz. I want no identification with that, so here I'm in the street running wild, and I lost my best friend two days before Christmas. He died in my arms, with so many holes in his chest, and it was a type of situation that I was completely confused. Loneliness was like a seductive lady that used to come in about three or four o'clock in the morning and just press in and depress me. I feel anguish, I felt alone. And I felt that I was in a cocoon of despair and I could not do nothing and then I got mixed up, so many times in and out of jail and when my friend was killed we retaliated and the Mau Mau's, which was my gang, we killed two. And then I got busted, not because in that crime and that was when the criminal courts assigned a psychiatrist, Dr. Goodman, to deal with my case.

And I end up; they put me in the famous hospital in New York called the Bellevue Hospital. Do you know that place? Thank you I know I wasn't the only one that was there. Thank you that you were there with me.

So Dr. Goodman told me you are doing your funeral, you are walking straight to jail, the electric chair and hell and there's no hope, and there's a dark, dark side of your life that nobody can penetrate, but thank God for Jesus Christ, our Lord that the spirit of the Lord move in the life of David Wilkerson, the hillbilly, a country preacher, a skinny guy, he wasn't as tall or good-looking like you but that's not.. I'm a straight; I'm a straight okay? I'm a straight. So that was the man, this was the man who brought the gospel and the police told him "Sir, they're going to kill you. If you walk into that war zone, you are dead man and you are going to force us to bring your dead body out." No, Wilkerson penetrate.

In the beginning, I want to attack him. I beat him up, I spit in his face, I call him every name in the x book. And I told him I don't believe in this thing; get out of this our turf. You don't belong here. And then he told me I came over here to give you a message from heaven. Just three words: Nicky, Jesus loves you. And you can go ahead and you can kill me, and cut me in thousand pieces and you can throw them right on the street, every little piece going to be crying out that Jesus love you Nicky. You can never love, you can never kill love, because God is love, and two weeks later, I fall into the arms of Jesus Christ, and let Him love me, forgive me, have mercy upon me, grace and hope.

RAS: What was that like? How do you describe the difference from where you were and what happened when you fell on your knees?

NC: Well, it was in front of my gangs. There were two thousand people there. And there was twelve different gangs in that time and we all had weapons. So Wilkerson was naïve in bringing so many other gangs. And they, there would be a big rumble or a fight, there's going to be a glory fight. It seemed like Wilkerson lost control of the crowd. But then the Holy Spirit took over. And little did I know the crucifixion of Jesus, the last two minute that what really touch me. And that when I began to realize that I need help, that I really need help, that I need love. And remember I buried Nicky Cruz when he was a little boy..

RAS: Yes.

NC: ..nine years old. I bury him, I say nobody going to hurt you no more, I'm going to protect you, defend you. That night, I was nineteen years old I let that little boy out to be loved by Jesus, by Jesus.

RAS: And what was that feeling like? How did, how do you describe the change?

NC: It was, let me put it this way, it's like if you walk with me to a hospital, to the operation table, and there is my body lay flat on that operation table. I notice somebody walking toward me, but there's no fear in this time. There's no fear. I notice that he came and I went with him. He closed my eyes then he open up my chest, he went deep down, pulled my heart out, and there I saw my bleeding heart and I saw all the hate, the bitterness, the loneliness, the despair, and all the rejections, and I notice that he say something, spoke something to my heart, kiss my pains, kiss my heart. Then he let me know that everything going to be all right. Put my heart back, close my chest, open up my eyes, and when I open up my eyes, I was born again, I was a new creation, now I have Christ in my heart, I let Him love me, because I never allowed nobody to get that close. And He gave me the greatest peace of all peace. I know where I'm going. I know exactly and precisely where I'm going. Jesus has made the way for me, and that the way it is.

RAS: There are still gangs today. There are lots of gangs. Almost every city has gangs. There are gang members listening to us right now. What do you say to them?

NC: When I was in El Salvador I talked to the president of one of the biggest, about 38,000 members in his gang. And he asked me for a section. So I went to see him. And I honestly believe that there, that this sense of loneliness has disconnected completely from parents, from society, from everything. And I detect a tremendous loneliness. I do feel that the gang's going to sell out to terrorism. I do believe that there are moving in and I believe that the organized crime in Central America, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, to Mexico is going to be something that we should be careful. And I still believe, to answer your question that Jesus Christ is the answer that Jesus Christ is the hope, but they have to see Jesus in us for them to believe because we have to be real. Christianity has to be a real thing. Not a phony thing.

RAS: Here's what I'd like you to do. I want you to look in the camera. And talk to the gang members who are watching right now. And tell them how to accept Jesus Christ.

NC: I'd be very happy to do this. I would like to say this. I know you can make it. I know how to be trapped and feel like nobody care, nobody love you. Lost. Living in environment, either rich or poor or whatever. And being trapped by any habit that controls you, that possess your mind, I believe that the attack of the enemy is to get through your mind. And from there to believe all this lying. But the one who you have to watch out is your heart. It's your heart that does the execution. And there, your heart is a lonely hunter. There's a big hole right there that I have in my life that nobody can fill. Until you open up, be vulnerable, you've got to be vulnerable, to be loved, or to love. And let Christ to come inside and to take over, and to be the father that you longing for or to be the husband that you have lost. Jesus Christ is the answer, and Jesus Christ is the force that can heal your mind, heal your heart, heal your body, heal your family, heal your environment, and I tell you one thing: You will never, never, never walk alone because Jesus will walk with you the last mile. God Bless you.

RAS: Nicky Cruz. God loves you and I do too.

NC: God bless you.

RAS: If you'd like to get a copy of Nicky Cruz's book, "Run Baby Run," he'll be in the bookstore signing his book and you can get a copy there. And if you're

watching on Hour of Power, you can go to our website and you can find a copy there as well.

RAS WELCOMES BACK RUSS LEE

RAS: Well we are very, very privileged to hear another song from Russ Lee. Russ, what are you going to sing for us?

RL: This song is called "Love is a Cross." It's just the continuation of Nicky's testimony. It's a perfect way to end the testimony I think.

RAS: Wrap it up.

RL: It is. It tells the story.

RAS: Thank you.

SOLO – RUSS LEE – "Love is a Cross"

Well I've heard it said that love is blind. It's never afraid. It's patient and kind. And I've heard it said love's all you need, and that it's a many splendor'd thing. I've heard people sing of love at first sight, of how it's so wrong and how it's so right. How it lifts you up, and it let's you down.

Oh, but I have found love is a cross and love let it be, and love is saving you and love is saving me. The blood and the nails, a body so bruised, a holy heart was broken that's how He chose to prove that love is a cross.

Peace is like a rushing river, and hope is paradise. Joy's an overflowing fountain, and love paid the price. And love is a cross and love let it be and love is saving you and love is saving me. The blood and the nails, a body so bruised, a holy heart was broken that's how He chose to prove that love is a cross, that love is a cross, that love is a cross.

RAS THANK YOU TO RUSS LEE

RAS: Thank you Russ, we appreciate you. We appreciate your music, we love your spirit. Your family is doing something unique, aren't they?

RL: Well we've been traveling literally this year around the world. It's been our goal this year to give away concerts in ministry in as many third world country's as we can. So we've spent five months out of the country. Three days ago we were in Fiji, before that Samoa, Papa New Guinea, and then a short stop in Australia, before that, a month in Africa. So God's opened some great doors. We've been on every major continent and in about thirty states this year, mostly..

RAS: Wow.

RL: ..as a family because I want families to know that the mission field is something that the family should embrace. So we've been giving up vacations to go on the mission field and I think my kids are better for it. So it's been an amazing year in our house.

RAS: Well Russ, God bless you. And just continue to sing and praise God. We love you.

RL: Thank you.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER

"Unlocking God's Blessings"

RAS: Many of you will remember that a few weeks ago we had a prayer Sunday here. And we invited people to come forward and share their prayers. And I made a commitment to sign, and to pray for everybody who came that day and gave us a prayer card. Well, this week, I fulfilled that pledge. I held every single one of those cards in my hand and I prayed for every single name. I read every name,

prayed for every single one, signed them all. And in addition to that, I prayed for about three hundred people who requested prayer online, cause we have a new prayer community, a fabulous prayer community, you can go to our website and you can read about our prayer community. And I prayed for about three hundred people there, so all totaled, I prayed for about two thousand people this week. Isn't that amazing? Two Thousand people requested prayer.

And there were two things that kept coming up over and over again. And they were almost neck and neck, I didn't keep score, I didn't take the time to do that, cause that's not important to me. But the prayer requests come in almost equal and that is health issues, and finance issues. Isn't that interesting? People are struggling with the finances. And if you go and you read the Bible you discover that Jesus cares about our finances. He talks about finances a lot. There are many scriptures that talk about how to deal with our finances and how to handle them because they are of grave concern to many people.

And so what we've been talking about last week and today and for the next couple weeks is something that is of tremendous need in our community and our society. Last week I started to touch on the topic of the eye of the needle and decided not to go there so let me go there today. Jesus said, "It is harder for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven than it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle." And as a result of that there are many people who believe that you cannot be rich and enter the kingdom of heaven. Because they say oh it's impossible for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. And they pick up a sewing needle and they say how can a camel get through this?

Well, I've traveled a lot to the Holy Land, and I've done lots of archeological studies, in fact my major in college was ancient civilization, which incorporated a lot of archeology, and one of the things I discovered is that the eye of a needle is not the needle of a sewing needle as we know sewing needles today. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if they didn't have sewing needles, as we know them in the time of Christ, I don't know that answer. But what I do know is what a sewing needle, what a needle is.

If you go to an ancient city it'll always be surrounded with a huge wall. And in those huge walls are there to protect the city from invading armies. And those cities have giant gates, huge gates. And those gates primarily remain closed all the time. But within those huge gates, which are opened only for special occasions, they have the gate, which is open to allow normal pedestrian traffic to come and go. And it's a small door within the big gates of the city. So the door is typically about that tall, and about that wide. And it's not unusual for it to have a board across the bottom so it's more like a window. So a pedestrian would literally have to step through, and then on either side as he's stepping through, are the guards of the city with their swords drawn, if they need to be. And at that point you're in a kind of a compromising position, you might say. And in such manner they protect the city and they control the traffic that comes in and out. Horses don't go riding through there. But it is possible for a horse to maneuver his way through that little gate. And it is possible for a camel to maneuver his way through that gate. It is not impossible. It is not simple. But it is possible.

And those words are spoken very profoundly by Jesus Christ when He says, "It is harder for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven, than it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle." What He's telling us is that it is very difficult for rich men and women to enter the kingdom of Heaven. And why is it difficult for rich people to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?

Jesus says later, "To whom much is given, much will be required." And if we look at our country today, if we look at who we are as a nation, we realize that

almost every single person in America today is rich by world standards. We have a poverty level. Every country does. The UN and the World Bank has established various poverty levels for various nations. So it depends upon the nation whether or not you are at a poverty level. Extreme poverty, which is worldwide, is considered income of a dollar a day or less. Did you hear me? That's considered extreme poverty in the world today, a dollar a day or less. How many people are there in the world today who live in that position? In 1990, there were 740 million people who fit that category. The goal of the UN and the World Bank is to cut that in half by the year 2015. In which case there will only be 360 plus million people living in the world, in ten years from now, if we can reach our goals worldwide of reducing extreme poverty. A dollar a day.

Now, how rich do you feel? How rich do you feel? How many people here think they might be very rich from the world standpoint? You can raise your hand, that's okay. I think I am talking to a lot of people who would consider themselves very rich by poverty standards of the world. If that's the case, this scripture speaks to you, "It is harder for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven than it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle." Those words are intended for us, ladies and gentlemen. Those words are intended for us. Which means the next words are also intended for us, "To whom much is given much will be required." And so there are extreme requirements that we have because God has blessed us so much. What does He expect from us? He expects of us simply to do what He asks. Not a lot. He doesn't expect a lot, He just expects us to do what He asks. He doesn't ask for a lot. He asks us first of all to be willing to give of our soul and our spirit. To give of who we are to Him so that we are first and foremost recognize the fact that we are His child. That He created us.

Secondly, He want us to give thanks to Him, in all things because so often it's so easier for us to think "Oh, if only I had that or that" and it's never enough. And so I think that He wants us to stop and be thankful for what we do have, instead of simply complaining about that which we don't have. Because I promise you 99.9 percent of the people in this room could think of something more. The bathroom needs to be painted, the car needs new tires. Am I right? We're all there. We can always think of something more.

God wants to stop and thank Him for what we do have. And then He wants us financially to give. He doesn't want us to give everything. He doesn't want us to give out of our excess, He doesn't want us to give when we have more then we know what to do with. He wants us to give from our poverty. Because the same time we recognize that we're rich, we also recognize that we're poor. And the richest men in the world can often feel poor because they have so many bills to pay. How am I going to take care of my Chateau in France, the staff, there's fifty people. Oh man, I have to pay for all those. You laugh but it's true.

Money and wealth is all relative. So God doesn't wait until we have excess to bless us, He wants us to bless Him out of our poverty. No matter where we are, no matter what kind of bills we have to pay, to trust in Him and put our faith in Him and say okay Lord, I understand the equation. It's not higher mathematics. It's really quite simple. Ten percent. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. He gave us ten fingers just to make it easy. So you might have a.. if you have a problem with mathematics it's this simple. Put up your hands. Okay, put up your hands, it's this simple. Okay, now what belongs to God? Okay, just see if you can do that. I mean this is really hard. Ten percent, that's it. That's ten percent. Higher mathematics. Okay? He says, "Bring the tithe to the storehouse and put Me to the test and see if I will not bring out such a blessing upon you that your storehouses will not be able to contain it."

And the word is blessings. Remember that it is blessings. It's not showers of money. Because if you can't be happy in your poverty, you can't be happy in your wealth. Doesn't work that way. Everyone knows that money doesn't buy happiness. It helps. But you don't buy it. And if you need more finances, I mean need. God will supply them. He's true to His word. He says, "I will supply your every need." The Bible is true with it.

The important thing for us today is to be able to recognize the calling that God has given to us, the talents and the gifts. I've got something here I want to read to you from Paul Bryant, the coach of the.. football coach for the University of Alabama. Here's what he said: "There are four types of football players. There are players who have ability and know it. There are players who have ability and don't know it. There are players who don't have ability and know it. And there are those who don't have the ability but don't know it." Later on he said, "The one that makes you the proudest is the one who isn't good enough to play, but it means so much to him, and he puts so much into it, that he does it anyway! We have a lot of those. The one's who have ability and don't use it, are the ones who eat your guts out."

How many people today have been blessed with the ability and they don't use it? "To whom much is given, much will be required." And when we trust God, and we live the way He's called us to live, then we learn to give back. So we need to learn to give back, we need to realize that, first of all we have to use the blessings that God has given to us. Use the money. And love people and never the other way around. Never use people and love money.

Dear Heavenly Father we thank You that You have given us the ability, the determination, the will, the strength and the ability to give out of our poverty. And when we learn this wonderful principle, we will truly realize how rich we are. And so we thank You God for Your blessings, for Your touch, for Your joy, for Your hope, for our future and for Your goodness. And so we love You Lord and we praise Your name. Amen.

HYMN - "In Thanksgiving, Let us Praise Him"

In the season of our plenty, in the season of our need; we will find His grace sufficient, we will find His love complete. In Thanksgiving, let us praise Him; in thanksgiving, let us sing songs of praise and adoration to our gracious Lord, and King. Amen, Amen, Amen.

NEXT WEEK/BENEDICTION - RAS

RAS: Russ Lee and Nicky Cruz are autographing in the welcome center so if you want to go and get one of their books or CD's you can go over there and they'll be happy to sign it for you.

Next Sunday, get this, is the 250th birthday of Mozart! Can you believe it? And so the Crystal Cathedral choir and the orchestra and the soloists are going to pay a special tribute to him. The Cathedral Academy soloist Daniel McGrew is going to be here. We have a special message, a wonderful, powerful message that's going to touch your heart, it's going to be a great Sunday so come back next week and experience the presence of God here in this place.

And so may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit touch your heart and renew your spirit and stand and walk beside you today, tomorrow and always, Amen.

DON NEUEN INTRODUCES ANTHEM

DN: Most of the styles of music that we hear in our concert halls and churches across the nation, originated in Europe. There are however, a few very significant exceptions that are truly American: Broadway's musical theater, jazz, and the Negro spiritual that was born in the days of slavery. It is a spiritual that we would like to sing today. Spirituals were created out of peoples broken hearts. However, you just can't break the positive spirit of some people and so there were positive spirituals that came out of that area also and we'd like to sing one such positive spiritual today, "I Ain't Got time to die."

ANTHEM - "Ain't Got Time to Die"

Lord, I keep so busy praisin' my Jesus, keep so busy praisin' my Jesus, keep so busy praisin' my Jesus, I ain't got time to die. 'Cause when I'm healin' de sick, I'm praisin' my Jesus, when I'm healin' de sick, I'm praisin' my Jesus, when I'm healin' de sick

I'm praisin' my Jesus, oh Lord; I ain't got time to die.

Cause it takes all o' my time to praise my Jesus, all o' my time to praise my Lord. If I don't praise Him de rocks are gonna cry out, "Glory an' honor, glory an' honor!" Ain't got time to die.

Well, I keep so busy workin' for de Kingdom, keep so busy workin' for de Kingdom, keep so busy workin' for de Kingdom, I ain't got time to die. 'Cause when I'm feedin' de poor, I'm workin' for de Kingdom, when I'm feedin' the poor, I'm workin' for de Kingdom, when I'm feedin' the poor, I'm workin' for de Kingdom, ain't got time to die.

'Cause it takes all o' my time to praise my Jesus, all o' my time to praise my Lord, if I don't praise Him de rocks are gonna cry out, "Glory an' honor, glory an' honor!" Ain't got time to die.

Lord, I keep so busy servin' my Master, keep so busy servin' my Master, keep so busy servin' my Master, ain't got time to die. 'Cause when I'm givin' my all, I'm servin' my Master, when I'm givin' my all, I'm servin' my Master, when I'm givin' my all,

I'm servin' my Master, ain't got time to die.

'Cause it takes all o' my time, to praise my Jesus, all o' my time to praise my Lord. If I don't praise Him de rocks are gonna cry out, "Glory an' honor, glory an' honor," ain't got time to die.

Now, won't you git out o' ma way, lemme praise my Jesus? Git out o' ma way! Lemme praise my Lord, if I don't praise Him de rocks are gonna cry out, "Glory an' honor, glory an' honor!" Ain't got time to die! Ooo!