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## HOURLY OF POWER OF 25.11.2007

### GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RAS: Good morning! And welcome to the Crystal Cathedral. It is a wonderful, beautiful day to be here and to feel the presence of God surrounding you as you truly are surrounded by what the Bible will call a cloud of witnesses; Saints. The person to you right, behind you, and around you is a saint, a child of God, so reach out and say God loves you and so do I!

We have Michael Scott Kerr, who is founder of Snowball Express and he is going to be sharing with us how he left his job to dedicate his life to bless the children of fallen US soldiers. Isn't that tremendous? The dedication of one man and what can happen. We have music by the Christian recording artist Natalie Grant, and you may notice that she's expecting something very exciting, in fact two of them, but that's another story. And the Crystal Cathedral Academy chorus is going to be singing, it's under the direction of Carol Aspling.

Don Neuen, welcome back! Oh, it's so good to see you again! Oh, God's blessings.

DN: Thank you very much.

RAS: Are you feeling loved Don?

DN: I'm feeling loved, yes I surely am.

RAS: Oh Good. Well, we're really, really happy to have you back. We also have the Crystal Cathedral Choir with us, with Sean Groombridge at the magnificent Hazel Wright organ, and Marc Riley with the Hour of Power orchestra, and so we know, we know that this is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and we will be glad in it. And so we pray oh Lord, that on this day You will touch our hearts and our minds with the reality of Your presence. That as You touch our hearts and our minds that You'll bring us Your peace. So we thank You for the privilege of being used by You, to touch others and to make a difference. So we love You Lord, and we praise Your name, Amen.

### SCRIPTURE – Sel. Verses from Psalm 103 - RHS

RHS: In preparation for the morning message, hear these words from the Psalms: Bless the Lord O my soul. And all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits. Who forgives all your iniquities? Who heals all your diseases? Who redeems your life from destruction? Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies? Who satisfies your mouth with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who love Him. As far as the East is from the West so far is His love for us. His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting on those who trust Him and His righteousness to children's children. To those who remember His commandments and do them, bless the Lord O my soul.

May God honor these words, touch you through them. Amen.

### INTERVIEW – MIKE KERR

\*RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER MK : MIKE KERR

RAS: Well our guest today is Michael Scott Kerr. Michael's making a significant difference in the lives of military families. He saw the tremendous needs of the families and widows who have been left with the remnants of war, and he made the decision to do something positive about it. He took a big step of faith, a huge

leap of faith actually, and he quit his job and he launched the Snowball Express. It's a program that provides a joyful holiday experience for every child who has lost a parent in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Would you please welcome with me Michael Scott Kerr.

MSK: Thank you. It's an honor to be here with you today.

RAS: Well I know that was a huge step of faith for you to go and do this for these widows and for these families who have lost someone who is so dear. How did you come up with this idea?

MSK: Well, you know it's really an interesting story. My wife and I were driving by Camp Pendleton, and I wanted to do something and I said to her you know where can I find some kids to help? I just feel that calling. And she pointed to Camp Pendleton and said you might find a couple there. And like the name it snowballed from there.

RAS: Wow. So just from her pointing to the Camp Pendleton you come up with the idea. I read an article which said, which talked about these families being invited to come to Disneyland for free!

MSK: Yeah. That's exactly what we've done. We're bringing them all out here on December fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth. We're flying them in from all over the country, they're coming right here to this beautiful church for a production of the Glory of Christmas, that Friday night and a dinner. Then on Saturday they're going to the Oakley World headquarters where they'll have a party that's second to none. They'll get a visit hopefully by Governor Schwarzenegger. Then we're taking them to the Irvine Spectrum shopping, each family will get an American Express gift card, and then the next day we're taking them to Disneyland.

RAS: Wow. You know the article I read, the young boy told his mother, mom you won't believe this, but we're getting free tickets and get to go to Disneyland and she didn't believe it and she called you, and after she talked to you she still didn't believe it. And I think she believes it now that she saw it in the newspaper.

MSK: Yeah, she believes it now. They all believe it now. But you know, it's like you mentioned we took a huge leap of faith with this and I'm so grateful. My wife, you know my wife's my biggest supporter and she's stood by my side and it hasn't been easy but we know we're doing the right work.

RAS: How many people are we talking about?

MSK: We're hoping to get five hundred widows and one thousand kids. Right now we have somewhere in the neighborhood of three hundred widows and I think about six or seven hundred children.

RAS: That's a lot of people.

MSK: Yeah, that's a lot of people

RAS: So what impact does this have on these families?

MSK: These families, you know, they are so touched by the outreach of the country as a whole that's joined on to the Snowball Express. You know many of these families they email me on a constant basis, and the common thread that I hear from them is thank you so much for your support. And thank you for providing an opportunity for all of us to come together at one time so we can share what we're going through. You know, I received a letter this morning and I hope you'll all take this woman with you today. She's coming to the Snowball Express and she's having some severe difficulty. She's through pain, and she's having some financial troubles, and she asks, she said to me please keep me in your prayers. And I emailed her back and I said you know you're in my prayers everyday and I'll be with Robert Schuller today, and I'm sure he'll keep you in your prayers as well.

RAS: Yes, we'll keep all of the families in our prayers because..

MSK: Please do.

RAS: ..we know how difficult it is. You know it must be horrific and extremely difficult and you've had first hand experience seeing how this actually does have an impact on their lives, what Snowball Express does for them. And has witnessing this had any impact on your faith?

MSK: Oh, Absolutely! Absolutely. You know, I think so often what we do is we fail to listen. We pray, which in my humble opinion is talking, but we fail to listen when God speaks to us. And in this particular case for me it's been a wonderful opportunity to listen and be able to hear what God wants us to do and what these families need from us. And it's so touching. There was one particular little child, Bailey from Chicago, and Bailey sits up every night worrying about whether the bad men that hurt her father will come for her. And I was able to email that little girl and talk to that mother and explain to her that you're in God's hands and no bad will come to you.

RAS: You know I'm sure that can be repeated a hundred times, if not two, three hundred times. And we want to pray for you, we want to pray for Snowball Express, we want to pray for the widows, and we want to pray for the children and for the families that have been left behind. And so we want to pray for you right now and if you want to go onto our website and offer a prayer for all of these families you can do that. We've got a fabulous prayer website. Just go to our website. You can do that there as well. But right now we're going to pray for Snowball Express and for all these families. And it's only appropriate, would you please join me. Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for the men and the women who've lost a loved one today because of the fighting that goes on around the world. And we thank You that this man, Michael Scott Kerr, heard the voice of the widows and the young children who've lost a mother or a father and have responded today and are receiving the help and the touch, and are able to get together, are able to feel supported and loved because one man had a vision, and responded. Amen.

MSK: Thank you.

RAS: The other thing we want to do is we want to invite all of the children and all of the parents to come as our guest to the Glory Of Christmas. And we are very, very honored to be able to give you fifteen hundred tickets.

MSK: I'm so grateful, Robert, I am so grateful.

RAS: And so we thank you Michael for all you've done and will continue to do.

MSK: God bless you.

RAS: God loves you and so do we.

MESSAGE - RAS "Unlocking God's Blessings – Part 2"

RAS: And today I want to share with you one of my, oh I guess it would be one of my favorite Psalms. The problem with me is I have too many favorite psalms. And too many favorite passages so I say oh that's my favorite passage and then I go, oh so is that, and so is that, I've been called to the carpet on that a couple times but let me share this one with you because this is another one of my favorite Psalms. Psalm 100, "Shout for joy to the Lord all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before Him with a joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us and we are His. We are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name for the Lord is good, and His love endures forever. His faithfulness continues through all generations."

Powerful words for us today to remember that it is the Lord that we come here to serve. That God has called us for a purpose and for a reason and that we are called

to be able to give praise and thanksgiving to Him. Today my message is unlocking God's blessings. And how do we unlock God's blessings? I think it begins by us recognizing the fact that God is blessing us. As my wife and I traveled through Germany, I signed books everywhere we went. And they had just translated one of my books into German. I would read it to you but you wouldn't be able to understand it, because it's in German, you know, unless you know German. And what I did is I signed every book and I signed it the same way, I signed it God is blessing you. I underlined is. And I've signed many books that way, and chances are if you hand me a book and ask me to sign it, I'm probably going to say God is blessing you in there. And the reason I sign that is a realization of the way God's blessings work in our lives. It begins with us recognizing the fact that in all things, in all ways and at all times God is blessing you. It's an act of faith. The faith to be able to believe that in all things and through God's love He cares for us and guides us and leads us. And as a result of that, He isn't possibly going to bless you sometime in the future. But He will absolutely totally bless you today, tomorrow, and always. God is blessing you. And so it becomes a matter of attitude. Worship the Lord with gladness. Today, many of you have come here with a heavy heart. I know that for a fact because just before I left for Germany I signed two thousand prayer cards. I read the prayers of hundreds of people. And I know that all of us are struggling with different things. It might be health, it may be finances, it may be struggles with the law, it may be relationships, but we've come here today with a heavy heart. And with this burden on our shoulders we sit here and we read these words, give praise to God and give thanks to God in all things. And yet we still have this heaviness we hold on to. Today it's a challenge. A challenge for us to reach out and to believe the words that God has for us. And here's the challenge. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His! We have the workmanship of His hands. He is molding us. He's shaping us. He's guiding us. He's directing us. He's giving us purpose, He's giving us need.

Yesterday I talked with a friend of mine who I've known for twenty-five years. And yesterday he shared with me that he watches the Hour of Power every Sunday. He never misses. I was surprised actually, I didn't think he did. He said, "I heard you're sermon on tithing Sunday." He's seventy-two years old; you'd never believe he's seventy-two. He's the fittest seventy-two year old I've ever seen. He's strong, he's young. The heart. He says, "I have a new vision and purpose for living. I'm going to tithe." I couldn't believe it. He said, I'm going to tithe, it's my purpose, my reason for living and that's the way I'm going to spend the rest of my life, giving. And when we learn the principles of giving, to give back, it's amazing what happens, how we unlock the blessings of God. If you've never experienced it, I want to challenge you today to explore it. That's all. Explore it. Put God to the test and see if He will not bring out such a blessing upon you that your storehouses will not be able to contain it. Those are the words of God. He challenges us to do this. And when we do, beautiful things start to happen. This ministry, through your gifts literally reaches out to the ends of the earth. And it is having a very powerful positive impact in people you would never guess or believe. In Cologne I met a man, couldn't speak a word of English. My translator stood next to me and as we talked tears flowed down his cheeks. And he said the Hour of Power saved my life. I wanted to commit suicide then all of a sudden I heard the Hour of Power, I heard the message of hope, and I received hope and I realized that I didn't have to do this. I met another man in the same city, who a few years ago, reached a point of near financial collapse. And he realized he had a million dollar life insurance policy and he's worth a lot of

money dead, but he wasn't worth anything alive. That's how much value he had. Nothing. He saw all of his value in dollars and cents and maybe there's people here today who feel that way, that all they can see is their value is dollars and cents. And you can't value a human life in dollars and cents. So he decided he would drive around the autobahn and he would just look for an opportunity where he could create an accident and that would be the end of it. He says I drove around for days, and an opportunity just never came. Then I heard the Hour of Power, and I heard those words from your father, tough times never last, but tough people do. And he said maybe I can just grit through this thing. And he says today I'm worth more money than I was ever worth. My business has come back to me, I landed up buying it back for a penny, and God has just continued to bless me. How does, how do we unlock the doors of God's blessings? It begins spiritually and emotionally by realizing the facts that God is blessing you and as a result we can give thanks for all things because God is blessing us, even through the burdens that we carried into this church today. He's blessing us. It continues by giving an act of worship and praise. By committing to tithe. And in our poverty we give back. The Sunday that I left for Germany I saw a beautiful sight. It was one of those sights that a pastor rarely has. And I shed a tear. The sight was a current account of the widow's mite. You know the story of the widow's mite? Let me read it to you a minute. In Luke 21, Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. And then he saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. And He said to His apostles, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth. But she out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on." Two weeks ago I sat here and I watched a woman put paper dollars into the offering plate. I don't know how much it was, and it doesn't matter. What does matter is only days before, my wife and I were serving at a homeless shelter, and I met this woman at the homeless shelter. And she came to church and she put paper, not the pennies or the nickels or dimes, but she put paper in the offering plate. She gave out of her poverty. And somehow God starts performing His miracles. And He blesses us in ways we cannot measure, in ways we can never comprehend, and ways we can not begin to explain. How does God give us our blessings? Happiness and joy, fulfillment and satisfaction. Peace and contentment. Confidence and assurance. Wholeness and health. He blesses us. God consistently blesses us. In Hamburg, one of the women there shared the gospel of John 3:16. She said, "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." And having heard that testimony I said for God so loved the world, now cross out the words world, and write your name in there. That's what I told them. I said cross out the word world, and put your name in there. So what do you say if that's the case? For I would say for God so loved Robert, and if your name is Sara, or Joe, or Susie, or Alice, or Cliff or David, that name goes in there. For God so loved you, not the world. He loved you, He loved the human being, He loved the person, He knows your name, He knows how many hairs are on your head. He loves you! Not the world! He loves you that He gave His only son, that when you believe in Him, you will not perish, but have everlasting life. We came into this place with our burdens. It's time now to put your burdens down, to lay them at the feet of Jesus Christ. And as we lay our burdens at the feet of Jesus Christ, He comes in and He showers us with His blessings and He gives us life. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that You came that we might have life and have it abundantly. That You came to bring us happiness and joy, fulfillment and satisfaction, peace and contentment, confidence and assurance, wholeness and health. And so we give You praise and

glory. We give You thanksgiving, and we give You our hearts. So show us oh Lord the beauty of Your wonder and Your grace today, tomorrow and always, Amen.

**BENEDICTION - RAS**

RAS: And now may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit open your eyes that you may see the blessings of God today, tomorrow, and always, Amen.