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HOURLY OF POWER OF 09.12.2007

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 37th year as the face and voice of positive Christianity to the world.

HYMN - "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. Oh come all, oh come all to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him, born the King of angels. Oh come let us adore Him, oh come let us adore Him, oh come let us adore Him Christ, Christ the Lord! Joyful and triumphant!

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION - RAS RAS: Good morning. Would you please turn to the persons next to you, behind you, shake their hand and say, "God loves you and so do I." My father is going to be talking with screenwriter Mike Rich and actor Oscar Isaac. They will be telling us and sharing with us a little bit of the behind the scenes and the details of that movie, "The Nativity". So let me just tell you this: this the day the Lord has made! We will rejoice and we will be glad in it. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that this is Your day and this is Your house, and so we thank God that You are alive and real and active and at work this very moment, bringing hope and joy and good news to all. We love You Lord, Amen.

HYMN - "Angels we Have Heard on High" Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria! Gloria!

ANTHEM – "O Holy Night" O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn; Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O Night Divine, O Night when Christ was born! O Night, O Holy Night, O Night Divine!

Truly, He taught us to love one another, His law is love and His gospel is peace; Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother, and in His Name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His Holy Name; Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O Night Divine, O Night when Christ was born! O Night, O Holy Night, O Night Divine!

SCRIPTURE – MATTHEW 1:18-25 - RHS RHS: Now hear the words of scripture. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. After the Virgin Mary was betrothed to Joseph before they came together she was found with child. Then Joseph, her betrothed, being a just man and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to take her out of this secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying,

Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a son and you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins. Then Joseph awakened from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary to be his wife. And he did not know her 'til she had brought forth her first born son and He called His name, Jesus. God bless this wonderful piece of holy history.

SOLO – NICHOLE NORDEMAN - "I Will Believe" We were meant to open doors and we were meant to face the danger. And never knowing what's in store and never having met a stranger. And one of us is big and brave, and one of us is tenderhearted. And one of us is tempting fate and the last but not least of us has faith enough for each of us. And I know I could never go it alone 'cause I believe I'd be lost without You here beside me.

It's like daylight at midnight. It's my favorite dream when nothings really as it seems. So don't wake me, just take me, take me by the hand and I will believe. Don't close your eyes, I'm right beside you. Don't be afraid, I'm never far. Come out, come out wherever you are.

Don't wake me, just take me, take me by the hand and I will believe. Come out, come out (I will believe), come out, come out, come out, come out, come out, come out, I will believe.

INTERVIEW – MIKE RICH & OSCAR ISAAC

RHS: ROBERT HAROLD SCHULLER MR : MIKE RICH OI: OSCAR ISAAC

RHS: My guest today is screenwriter Mike Rich with such well-known movies to his name as, "The Rookie" "Finding Forester" and "Radio." Daily Variety has listed Mike Rich among the top ten screenwriters to watch. Now Mike Rich has added to his screen writing the new motion picture, "The Nativity Story," a wonderful film realistically depicting the true meaning of Christmas to the world. Take a look at this: (VIDEO ROLL IN) MALE V/O: Now, experience the event that changed the world forever. MALE: All of them talk of this prophet the king. This man who will defeat me. MALE V/O: One family, one child, one journey confronted danger and transformed everything. FEMALE: I think it's an amazing movie to remind us really what the true meaning of Christmas is. MALE V/O: This year see the movie that puts Christ back into Christmas. MALE: Beautiful, it's wonderful, it's moving. MALE V/O: The Nativity Story. Rated PG. (END OF VIDEO ROLL IN) RHS: Mike welcome to the church this morning. MR: Thank you, thank you. RHS: I have a great deal of respect, admiration, esteem and affection for you. MR: I appreciate that thank you. RHS: You've earned it. You really have. Mike, of all the story lines you could have chosen what made you choose The Nativity? MR: Well, you know it's a story that I think for me like so many millions of people serves as a kind of there's a foundation of our faith. I grew up in a small town in Oregon and I remember my father when we set up the nativity set. There was no man cherished Christmas more than my father and he had hard and fast rules. You know the wise men went on one side of the set and the shepherds went on the other. And if you messed with those rules you were in trouble. So I think the story was always right there for me and I just felt the timing

was right to write a story that really put the true meaning of Christmas back into Christmas. RHS: Wasn't there a moment when you looked at two national magazines? Tell us that. MR: There was. It was in December of 2004 and I went out to the mailbox and Newsweek and Time both had cover stories on the Nativity and I remember looking at that and I think that in looking at the nativity sometimes we view those characters much as the characters that we put up on our fireplace mantle, they become inanimate objects and to me it was the opportunity to really take a look at Mary and Joseph as real people and to take a look at the faith, the astonishing faith I think that they both exhibited. RHS: Oh and I hear wonderful comments on it and I can't wait to see it. Have you exposed it, in Rome? MR: We did, we got the chance to have our world premier at the Vatican and there were eight thousand people there that night. It was an astounding experience. The moment in the film where the Christ Child is born and you hear that first cry of the child, it's an overwhelming moment for the audience and it certainly is for me every time that I see it. RHS: Well I heard from the Catholic Church how they have endorsed it so strongly and they're so proud that this movie is out and thank God for you, for putting it all together. MR: It's my honor. RHS: Wow and what was the most enormous challenge that you faced. By the way let me say it was filmed exactly where Mel Gibson's movie was shot, in Italy. MR: Mel Gibson's was shot, yes. The biggest challenge for me was making certain that I honored the words of Matthew and Luke because you know, Matthew says in one sentence that Joseph took Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Well it's one sentence but it's a hundred and ten miles and so we had to show that journey and so there were scenes that I was writing that obviously were not in the biblical text so that was something that was a huge challenge and I wanted to make certain that those words were very consistent with the tone of Matthew and Luke. RHS: Good, good. I think we can roll a clip now of the movie and you tell us what we are going to see. MR: Yes, this scene is right after Joseph who's so marvelously played by Oscar Isaac receives the reassurance in his dream that he should fear not to take Mary as his wife. And it's the next morning when he goes to Mary to tell her that. (VIDEO ROLL IN) JOSEPH: Mary, you shall call His name Jesus for it is He who will save His people from their sins. I know, Mary, God showed me. An angel came to me in a dream. MARY: You believe me. JOSEPH: I believe you. The child will be the father; I will declare Him as my own. MARY: They will not look at you the same. They will not look at us the same. JOSEPH: You are my wife. I am your husband. That is all anyone need know. (END OF VIDEO ROLL IN) RHS: We have Joseph with us today right? Oscar Isaac, Oscar Isaac, is it true that you had to build your own house? The house where Joseph and Mary would live in. OI: I was forced labor, yes. No, it was as an actor it was fantastic, for a month I worked with only first century tools and technical advisors that taught me basically what it meant to be a young Jewish carpenter in the first century and I built the walls of my house and the olive press in the center of town and the staff that I use in the film. RHS: Not bad. What did this film have of an impact on you? In your heart and in your soul? OI: Well there was a moment when we were shooting. We were shooting out in the middle of Morocco in the desert in the wilderness and it's a moment where Mary's sleeping, we've been on the trek of a hundred ten mile journey and we're down to our last little piece of bread, our donkey is starving. And Joseph walks out and looks up into the sky and asks God for a sign to show him that he's doing the right thing. And the sign doesn't come. And that's the scene. Well when we were shooting it, the sun was setting right behind me and right in front of me the moon starting coming up over the Atlas mountains and it was full and I had never really been

out of the country before and so, Joseph asks for a sign and one didn't come. But for Oscar there was a huge sign that I was doing the right thing and that I was listening to God correctly. RHS: Fantastic. Well thank you for making the movie and thank you for all the other good work you do. MR: Thank you. RHS: And it's so nice to meet a Hollywood screenwriter that gosh is still so committed to your faith. MR: Well, I appreciate that. RHS: It shows. MR: Yeah that's what this story is about; The Nativity Story is the story of great faith for Mary and Joseph so it was an honor to write it. RHS: Thank you. Oscar. OI: Thank you very much. RHS: God loves you, so do I. Now you both have to come to and see the Glory of Christmas here. MR: Well, we can only hope that our movie measures up just a fraction to the Glory of Christmas. RHS: Thank you, thank you very much.

RAS INTRODUCES SEAN GROOMBRIDGE & HOLLY PATTERSON RAS: Let me introduce you to Holly Patterson who is going to be playing along with Sean Groombridge, a beautiful Polish Christmas Carol entitled, "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly."

DUET – SEAN GROOMBRIDGE & HOLLY PATTERSON - "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

SOLO – NICHOLE NORDEMAN - "What If?" What if you're right and He was just another nice guy? What if you're right, and what if it's true? They say the cross will only make a fool of you, and what if it's true? What if He takes His place in history with all the prophets and the kings who taught us love and came in peace but then the story ends. What then?

But what if you're wrong? What if there's more? What if there's hope you never dreamed of hoping for (dreamed of hoping for)? And what if you jump and just close your eyes? What if the arms that catch you catch you by surprise (catch you by surprise)? What if He's more than enough, what if it's love?

And what if you dig way down deeper than your simple minded friends? And what if you dig and what if you find a thousand more unanswered questions down inside, and that's all you find? What if you pick apart the logic and begin to poke the holes, what if the crown of thorns is no more than folklore that must be told and re-told?

But what if you're wrong? What it there's more? What if there's hope you never dreamed of hoping for (dreamed of hoping for)? And what if you jump and just close your eyes? What if the arms that catch you catch you by surprise (catch you by surprise)? What if He's more than enough, what if it's love, what if it's love?

RAS THANK YOU TO NICHOLE NORDEMAN RAS: Nichole, thank for coming and sharing your music with us, I know that means something to you, the words you sing doesn't it? NN: Very much. RAS: Tell us what it means to you. NN: Well I think it's just a very personal expression of faith to get to be able to put words and music and God is such a part of art and so it's a privilege to get to use His gifts. RAS: Thank you for coming and for sharing your music. God bless you. NN: Thank you.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER "The Love that Embraced the World" RAS: What I like that? Wow, that's interesting. What am I going to do

with this? Well, this is, I guess, technically I guess it's a paddle, but you know we can.. it could also be an oar if it didn't have this end on the end. But I'll tell you what I'm going to do; I'm going to do something a little strange here. I'm going to pass this around. I want everyone to put their hands on it and just pass it down the aisle, just pass it down that aisle and when it gets to the end, then pass it down this way and we're going to just pass this thing all the way through the Crystal Cathedral and everyone can put their hands on this paddle or this oar, whichever you want to refer to it. There you go, get it across the aisle there. And when it gets through this section we'll move it over there and when it gets through there someone will carry it upstairs to the balconies and the choir loft and we'll see if we can't get this thing completely through the congregation before the morning is over. I think we can, I really think we can. How many have ever felt like you've just continued to strain and work and you've done everything you've can and for some reason it seems like you're just swimming upstream. Anyone ever felt that way about a project you're doing? Or something you're trying to accomplish, you're doing what you know God has called you to do and it feels like you just can't get anywhere. You ever feel that way? I sometimes feel that way as a pastor. You know we had a couple thousand people come here, children to see the Glory of Christmas. We do that every year, we invite children from around the neighborhood to come here and they'll come from as far as way as almost a hundred miles to come and see the Glory of Christmas, for free here during the day. And they come and Jim Poit our executive pastor shared with me yesterday that there was a young child who came and saw the Glory of Christmas and afterwards looked at one of the other children and said, "But what.. but what was the story of Christmas? It didn't have anything to say about Christmas." For this child, Christmas was about Santa Claus and snowmen and Rudolph, the red nosed reindeer and presents and Christmas trees and he didn't see any of those things. What does the Glory of Christmas have to do with Christmas? What does the birth of a child have to do with Christmas? I believe we have a tremendous need in our society today to educate our children about the historical reality of what Christmas is all about. I believe that. I have a fear that we are raising a bunch of naïve, uneducated children who do not understand the basic historical significance of what Christianity has had in the world for centuries and will have for centuries in the future and do not have the common basic understanding of simple Christian philosophies and thoughts and I think that can probably true across the board as far as Jewish faith and Muslim faiths and other faiths. All of which have had tremendous impact upon society and in our community and our world today. Yesterday I had a seventh grade teacher who shared with me that she goes and even though she's in a public school, in Sacramento California, she teaches her seventh grade children, about the true meaning of Christmas; what Christmas is all about. She says it's in the curriculum. It's in the seventh grade curriculum in education. And I can do that and she does. And I want to encourage teachers everywhere listening to my voice to not allow our children to grow up without knowing what Christmas really is. Because we all know that Santa is a byproduct. And that Christmas is really about a little baby who was born two thousand years ago and marks the beginning of the greatest event in history. The message this morning is the love that embraced the world and that love is the love of God. "For God so loved the world," the Bible tells us, "that He sent His only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have everlasting life." That is the message of Christmas: "For God so loved the world." And we often get confused as to what the world is. And in some cultures the world is everything other than us. It's the concept of we have the salvation and we have the joy and we have the

message and everybody else is the world. And it's across the board. If you look at the Muslim faith today, the Jihads would say we are the Jihads and we are fighting against the world, everybody who is not us. And throughout history various denominations have said the same thing. And probably without exception. The reformed faith I know did that of which we are a member, the Catholic faith, the Mormons, the Lutherans; it goes basically across the board. The world is people other than us. If you're not us, you're of the world. But what Jesus Christ and what God is sharing with us is that we are the world. Every single one of us have sinned, will sin and fall short of the glory of God and need to come to God in repentance on a regular basis. I'm hesitating because in my notes, in my plans I was going to share how I was arrogant, really arrogant this past week. The fact of the matter is some of you are going to laugh at it and its not really meant to be a laughing matter because it really is arrogant. The arrogance was as I literally said these words and I don't mean this to be sacrilegious because what I'm talking about is really true. And that I was really arrogant. What I said was, and I know you're going to laugh and its ok to laugh because I've prefaced it so you can. And the words I said were, "UCLA can never beat USC." I literally said, "Hell could freeze over" as well. I said those words, arrogance! Its arrogant, it really is. And no matter how much we try to live and be the people that God wants us to be, we fail. And in our failure what we do is we have a tendency to think and become actually more arrogant. The arrogance is that our sin is so great that God cannot forgive us. That was revealed to me just recently by a woman I met, I was at a wedding a couple weeks ago and I sat next to this woman at the dinner and she says, "I have to share something with you." She said, "I was suffered with guilt for years." She said, "My husband, before we were married, I had an affair with him. And we broke up our relationship and a year or so later he was divorced from his wife and we met, we got married," and she said, "I spent the first year or two of our marriage feeling like I had a great big scarlet letter A on my back and everywhere I went I felt like I was living with and I knew I was living with this guilt of adultery. She said, I continued to live with this until one day a pastor friend of mine said to me, "You suffer from one of two things: either you don't believe or you're arrogant. You either don't believe that the grace of Jesus Christ is big enough to forgive you, or you're too arrogant to think, you're so arrogant that you think your sin is too big for God to forgive." She said, "I started to ball like a baby. I cried, I cried for about two days, because he spoke the truth to me and I realized that God's grace was big enough to cover even the darkest of sins and that my sin was not too big for God and that God's grace was truly bigger than anything I could've done." She said, "It changed my life. Changed my life." "For God so loved the world." That means God so loved you and me just the way we are with all of our insufficiencies, with all of our struggles and our pain. With all of the sin and the discomfort that we go through on a daily basis, God is there to wrap us and embrace us with His love, "For God so loved the world that He gave us His Son." A child, a baby, He Himself extended Himself into the form of a human being so that He could come and give us the truth of the beauty and the love of His grace. I want to read a scripture to you today. The scripture I'm going to read is from Mark chapter 6. And in Mark 6 we read these words: "Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to Bethesda while He dismissed the crowd. And after leaving the crowd He went up on the mountainside to pray. When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake and He was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night He went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass them, but when they saw Him walking

on the lake, they thought He was a ghost. Then they cried out because they saw Him and were terrified. Immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take courage, it is I. Do not fear.' Then He climbed into the boat. He was in the boat with them and then the wind died down and they were completely amazed." If you were to read the account in John's gospel, it says the boat immediately reached its destination. Isn't that encouraging? But it doesn't take place until Jesus Christ came into the boat. Here's the disciples straining at the oars working as hard as they can, fighting against the wind and the waves and they're not getting anywhere. And then they invite Jesus Christ into the boat. They cry out to Him 'Jesus Christ, get in our boat' and as soon as Jesus Christ got in the boat, the winds were calmed and they reached their destination. They were at the other side that fast. And today, God wants to come into the very center of your heart and your soul and your mind and your life. The storms are raging. You're at work trying to get something done. You're straining at the oars and it's not moving. Life isn't working. Relationship problems, addiction problems, financial problems, health problems, the list goes on and on and on. I know because I continue to pray for our community and for our church. This week I prayed for over a hundred and fifty people who requested prayer. I prayed for every single one. We have a prayer community and we have a few thousand people in this prayer community. And you can go online and you can sign up for this prayer community, you can ask for prayer, you can ask me to pray for you, you can write a prayer request and if you do, I'll read your prayer request and I'll respond to you. I've done every single one; I'll continue to do that. And I've read the prayer requests that people have and the challenges that people face. It's amazing what some of the things people are dealing with today. Let me share a couple of them with you. Here's one: We enjoy your faith building sermons on TV every week. My wife's name is Deborah. She's a beautiful person and has been legally blind for several years. Your sermons have given her strength to become a piano concerto and teacher with 27 students. We feel that our faith has kept us strong. Would you please pray for us? Listen to this prayer request. The English isn't very good, but you'll know why in just a minute. We begin a new business in gas station. We need much prayer, as much bondages around from people. This request is from India. Much trouble arise from nothing at all. We are planning to open shortly. Pray for us and its success. How about this one: After an adulterous affair I'm separated from my children. I ended the affair after reading your book, "Getting Through What You're Going Through." I gained the strength to walk away. Now I need to continue strength to reunite with my sons. I'm alone and feel depressed but my faith has kept me away from the darkness. I am walking in the light now. Please pray for my emotional health and for reuniting with my children soon. Thank you. I can go on reading forever. People have needs and challenges. This ministry has needs and challenges. We have been managing this ministry successfully, very successfully for 35 years, for 55 years the church, and the Hour of Power and the ministry for 35 years. And after 35 years of sending letters to our faithful supporters, we know what's going to happen when we send a letter financially. You know, I've discovered something this week about my wife. She and I have something different and I just discovered it, just this past week. She loves to read all the mail. Do you know what I mean by all the mail? I get a stack of mail about this tall every day. And she likes to go through every single piece and read it all. She loves the mail. Do you know what I do? I go and get that same stack of mail out of the mailbox and I go to the trashcan. Straight to the trash can, I go flump, flump, flump, flump, bill, flump, flump, flump, Christmas card, flump, flump, flump, okay. And then I take in three pieces of mail and I hand it to

her and she says, where's the mail? I says right there. No, where's the mail? Well I threw a bunch of stuff in the trashcan. You what? And she runs out there and she pulls it out and she reads her mail. How many people like to throw it away? How many people love to read it? Look at there. You see people love to read the mail. I didn't even know that was possible. I didn't know that it was possible that people love to read all the mail. I should have. I should have known that but I didn't. Now I know it. Now we all know it! We're all in the same boat together; we all have the same information. And it's time for us to ask Jesus Christ to get in the boat so He'll calm the storm. So that we can reach our destinations and we can present the good news of Jesus Christ to everybody. So that when children come here in the future, they won't ask 'what does that have to do with Christmas anyway?' But they'll know. The oar is going through the congregation. Where is it now? Where is it? Is it up in the balcony? It's up in the balcony. Who has it? Why don't you bring it down now. Whoever is holding it right now, what's your name? What is it? Hector, why don't you bring the oar down here. You're good and strong, you can come up and down the stairs a couple of times. Why don't you bring that oar down here. We all put our hands on the oar. And the Bible says that the apostles were all together in the boat. And they were rowing and they weren't getting anywhere until Jesus came and came into the boat with them. Christmas is all about Jesus. Christmas is all about God loving the world and embracing the world with His love. Jesus wants to come into our lives today and embrace us. Thank you, Hector. Thank you Hector, appreciate it. Give a round of applause to Hector. Boy, he delivered the goods. Today we're going to pray. I'm begging you to join me in prayer that God will carry us through this thing together, because I can't do it alone, with all the effort that I put in it, it won't make a dent. And you can't do it alone in all the effort you put in either. But if we all work together, with Christ in the center of the boat, He's going to calm the storms and He's going to carry us through and together we can succeed. Dear Heavenly Father, You're a powerful, wonderful God who continues to touch hearts and minds with Your grace and Your love. So we thank You for the life that You're breathing within our souls and our minds and our hearts this very moment, we thank You. We give You praise and we give You honor and glory, Amen.

HYMN - "Joy to the World" Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing. Joy! Joy! Joy! Joy!

BENEDICTION - RAS RAS: And now may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, fill your minds and your hearts with the knowledge of His grace and may you live a life that is free and full of grace and love, Amen.

HYMN – "Come, O Long Expected Jesus" Come, O long expected Jesus, born to make our lives anew; From our fears and doubts release us, let us find our new hope in You. Jesus, Strength and Consolation, Hope Your coming does impart, dear Redeemer of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Your people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King, born to live in us forever, now, Your gracious presence brings. With Your own eternal Spirit, rule

in all our hearts alone; By Your all-sufficient merit, praises to Your glorious throne.