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HOUR OF POWER OF 06.01.2008

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 - "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. And welcome to the Crystal Cathedral. What a fabulous day to be able to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. So right now would you please take a moment and shake hands with those who are standing around and say God loves you and so do I.

I want to ask you to join me for a moment of prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for this opportunity that we have to be able to worship together in Your house with Your children. And so as we embrace our brothers and sisters in Christ and remember Your faithfulness and Your gifts to us, we say thank You God for everything. We love You and we praise Your name, Amen.

RHS: And I have a word: 53 years ago today the doctor came out of the delivery room and he looked at me and he said 'Dr. Schuller, you have your son.'

"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Robert, happy birthday to you!"

RAS: You guys are funny and many more? Yeah, I got that. Well I hope there are many more. I was going to say let's sing together and I hadn't planned on singing Happy Birthday, but I'd planned on singing "O Christ our God Incarnate," so let's continue singing the words "O Christ our God Incarnate, Redeemer from on high."

HYMN - "O Word of God Incarnate Medley"

O Christ our God incarnate, Redeemer from on high. O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky. We praise You for the radiance; we seek Your Holy face, a lantern to our footsteps, Lord guide us by Your grace.

The Church from You, dear Master, received the gift divine and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine. It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging sea, amid the rocks and quick sands, still guides, O Christ, to Thee.

All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my guide? Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith with Him to dwell! For I know what ever befall me, Jesus doeth all things well. For I know what ever befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

Lead on, O King Eternal, we follow, not with fears. For gladness breaks like morning wherever Your face appears. Your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light. The crown awaits the conquest; Lead on, O God of might. Lead on, O God, lead on!

RHS TALKS ABOUT HYMNS IN THE CC

RHS: Thank you, you may be seated. What mighty words we have just sung. Hymns are transitioning out of many churches and changing styles today. We hold onto them and people say do you still sing hymns? I say well, we have collected some of the greatest Christian poetry and we use poetry in our morning church services, only we've turned the poetry to music and we sing the poems. Wonderful words, thank you very much.

INTERVIEW – TYLER PERRY

RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER TP: TYLER PERRY

RHS: Now, today I have a fabulous guest. Never had a Christian friend closer and stronger and wiser than Tyler Perry. He's an actor; he's a writer, a director and a producer, best known for his box office hits "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" and "Mandela's Family Reunion." Ten years ago, this man was poverty stricken and homeless, living in the streets of Atlanta. It wasn't until Tyler learned to forgive that he experienced the blessings of God and he'll tell us about this, so please welcome with me a fabulous person, Tyler Perry.

TP: God bless you, Dr. Schuller.

RHS: God bless you, Tyler. Well is it really true that some years ago you were on the street?

TP: Yes about ten years ago, so I was following God and ended up homeless after.. that's why I love the story of Joseph because he had went through so many things in life. God had taken him through so many things to get to where He wanted him to be. But I was doing one of my first plays and had my rent money and everything tied up into it and ended up out on the streets when nobody showed up for the show. But God was proving me to make sure that I would do the right things when I got to the place where I am now, and always listen and follow His voice.

RHS: Wow. You said the key that changed your path from failure to success was forgiveness.

TP: Yes.

RHS: Explain.

TP: Well, my father was a man who was quite abusive and you know he did what he knew how to do, everything that was passed on to him, he passed it on to me but I broke the generational curse there. But I had to learn to forgive him so that's what all of my work has been about. There's an underlying message of Christianity and forgiveness, no matter how broad the comedy is, as you're

watching anything that I've done, you'll see that there's an underlying message of the power of God's forgiveness.

RHS: Did you have a Christian mother?

TP: I did, I did and she's still Christian today, still bringing her version which I laugh when I say that is because she's growing every day, but we went to church every Sunday, absolutely, and she taught me all about God and His promises.

RHS: Wow. You've put this forgiveness spirit it seems in everything you do.

TP: Yes. Yes.

RHS: And it was really the thing that opened God in a real way to you?

TP: Yes, yes, it has been.

RHS: You know I've studied and Lee Strobel said the other day to me, most atheists had a bad father. And subconsciously they don't want another father.

TP: Wow.

RHS: And that's been proven many years.

TP: Wow.

RHS: I wrote about 40 years ago. Now that's a path you could have taken.

TP: Yeah, yeah.

RHS: You could have become a roaring atheist, and say you don't want another father. What you were saved from, and I don't mean to preach to you, but..

TP: Oh, please preach to me, please.

RHS: Oh no.

TP: As your book already has, I so look forward to reading every page of your scars to stars.

RHS: Yes.

TP: Yes, yes.

RHS: Well you've done that, you've turned your scars into stars and we have a list of people to whom I've written and given that special membership in the special club. The first one was Art Linkletter, whose daughter committed suicide, and he turned that scar into stars and has done so much to fight drugs since. And oh, I'm proud to say I look at your life and you turned your scars into stars.

TP: God bless you.

RHS: And your hurts into halos.

TP: Yes, God bless you.

RHS: And your problems into possibilities. Oh. So..

TP: That's wonderful.

RHS: You've carried the message of forgiveness into your new movie titled "Why did I get Married?" And what inspired this new film?

TP: Oh you know I'm sure a lot of people have asked that question at some point or another..

RHS: Yes.

TP: ..you know, why did I get married? It's actually a positive look at four couples who go on vacation and they re-evaluate their relationships every year, and one is a Christian who has lost so much of herself in her husband, and she's gained a lot of weight and she's dealing with a lot of issues and she's praying for God to save her marriage but she's not praying for herself to be made whole so that everything else could happen.

RHS: Do we have a clip?

TP: We do, we do have a clip.

RHS: Let's see it.

(VIDEO ROLL IN)

MAN: It's snowing a little bit, but this is where I come to clear my head. I just come right here. I pray, I scream, I yell, do whatever I need to do. But it's just me and God.

FEMALE: You ever come here to cry?

MAN: Yeah, that too.

FEMALE: I can't even describe to you the pain I feel. It's like I've been hit by a car. I keep trying to understand.. why I.. what did I do so wrong? I can't even pray about it.

MAN: You know Sheila, it's a great time for a new start, if you want to stay.

(END OF VIDEO ROLL IN)

RHS: You give faith a very positive, beautiful part in every movie you make. Why?

TP: It's just very important to me. It's not about entertainment. There are so many people, especially my age that are doing so many negative things. I want to

bring some balance to it. God has been so good to me and I want to share it with as many people as will accept it, you know. And that's why it's so important to me.

RHS: You also volunteer your services to a great project called the Bible reading project. Tell us about it.

TP: Well the Bible experience are a bunch of actors in Hollywood who are Christian who got together to read the Bible on tape and it's been a wonderful experience. I actually got a chance to read Joshua, so it's quite interesting.

RHS: Yeah, pretty inspiring guy.

TP: Yes, yes, yes.

RHS: Did they read the whole Bible?

TP: The whole Bible from beginning to end and..

RHS: And all of Leviticus?

TP: All of Leviticus, yeah. All of Leviticus.

RHS: How long does it take to hear it?

TP: Oh to hear it, its something you want to listen to over a period of time. You don't want to do it all..

RHS: Do it all.

TP: ..you don't want to try to do it all at once.

RHS: It must have been what, ten/twenty hours to record it all? Thirty hours?

TP: At least, at least.

RHS: Oh my.

TP: Yeah.

RHS: Well because it's so beautiful, I'm asking you to read the scripture this morning, and to thank you for what you have done with your hurts. You've turned them into halos.

TP: Thank you Dr. Schuller, thank you.

RHS: Bless you.

TP: Thank you so much.

SCRIPTURE – Genesis 50:19-21 – TYLER PERRY

TP: I chose the scripture today from Genesis 50:19 and 21 because I so love the story of Joseph and all he had been through. And this is when he sees his brothers again after they've done all kinds of things to him and tried to rob him of his dream.

Joseph said to them, don't be afraid. I am in the place of God. You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children. And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

May God add a blessing to the reading and the hearing of His word. Bless you, thank you.

ANTHEM - "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God! Christ, my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did ever such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love, so amazing, so divine, divine demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

RAS THANK YOU TO CHOIR & TYLER PERRY

RAS: I look over at my mother and she's crying and then I start crying, it's a meaningful piece. It has tremendous value to us as Christians and as its message is clear and profound and so I thank you choir for sharing that music with us. And what a magnificent anthem that is. I also want to thank Tyler Perry for reading our scripture this morning. It's a pleasure to have you here. It truly is a joy to have you participating in my birthday party here.

RAS INTRODUCES MIN & YOON KWON

RAS: And now it's my pleasure to welcome to the Crystal Cathedral, outstanding musicians and sisters Min and Yoon Kwon. Min and Yoon have won many internationally acclaimed competitions and performed at some of the most prestigious venues and festivals around the world, including New York's Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Min is currently professor of piano at Rutgers, and Yoon is the youngest violinist of the Metropolitan Orchestra which has been hailed as the finest orchestra in the United States. Both of these young women are followers of Jesus Christ. And so let's give them a warm Crystal Cathedral welcome.

PIANO/VIOLIN DUET – MIN & YOON KWON – “Sonatensatz in C Minor”

RAS THANK YOU TO MIN & YOON KWON

RAS: Thank you Min, thank you Yoon.

INTERVIEW – HILARY GRIFFITH

RHS: ROBERT HAROLD SCHULLER HG: HILARY GRIFFITH

RHS: My guest is the beautiful Miss Arizona Hilary Griffith. This past year she competed in the Miss America 2000 pageant hosted by Mario Lopez and was the first runner up for the quality of life award. Hilary is an accomplished pageant winner and singer. In many ways, she had a normal childhood until her life was forever changed; November 9, 2004, raped in her apartment while attending Arizona State University. It is amazing how many beautiful young people today never escape high school without carrying some horrific memories, and this church specializes in trying to help people overcome, to apply forgiveness and to find a new dream that can help cover their hurt.

Well, after this devastating tragedy, she relied on her faith in Jesus Christ to overcome her pain. Today, she's making a positive difference in the lives of many through her willingness to share her story in churches, schools and wherever she's invited in order to raise awareness about the trauma of rape. Well, Hilary is an inspiration. She's currently finishing her bachelors and then her masters program at Arizona State University to pursue her dream of becoming a broadcast journalist. So welcome with me the current Miss Arizona, Hilary Griffith. Hi - wow. You know, we've had a lot of Miss America's here but we've never had anyone or any Miss Arizona before.

HG: Well it's my honor.

RHS: Well now let me finish this sentence.

HG: Sorry.

RHS: That is..

HG: I interrupted.

RHS: That's all right. That is prettier, sweeter than you are.

HG: Oh, I should have let him finish. Thank you.

RHS: Oh wow. How did you get involved in pageantry?

HG: You know it's funny; I never grew up competing in pageants. I never thought I would be a pageant girl, but in addition to being a singer, I was a competitive baton twirler, and I had a couple friends that competed. When I was about a senior in high school, my baton coach said you know, I really think you should try this. This could be something you would be good at. And I said huh, you're funny. I don't think I want to do that. But I decided to give it a shot, and when I was a 17 year old senior, I entered my first pageant; I won and went to the Miss Arizona pageant. Had a blast and four years later I won the title.

RHS: Wow. Now, what did it feel like then to win Miss America, I mean the Miss America, Miss Arizona..

HG: Yes.

RHS: ..becoming yeah.. did it give you ambitions to become Miss America?

HG: Yeah, I mean it was amazing to win Miss Arizona, after competing for four years I was ready and I was so looking forward to the opportunities that I could have to help people. And then competing in the Miss America pageant was just an amazing experience to be there with 51 other incredible young women who were just so dedicated and sincere about their community service and just looking forward to helping better their society. It was just so much fun. I can't go on enough about how amazing this program is.

RHS: November 2004, is that the year?

HG: Yes.

RHS: When it happened? Was that before or after your Miss America/Miss Arizona?

HG: Well I was competing in the Miss Arizona program, I wasn't Miss Arizona yet. So I actually was getting ready for a local pageant four days later, when I was raped on November 9th, 2004.

RHS: How did it affect you?

HG: Well, obviously it devastated my life. Growing up in a Christian family, a Christian household, I had kind of been protected from anything like that. I had never gotten into any sort of trouble, I never drank, I never smoked a cigarette, I never skipped class, and I'd never had a tragedy affect me before. Basically what happened was I was in my apartment, my off campus apartment, and the doors and windows were locked and somebody broke in and raped me at knifepoint which.. it shocked me because I always had this image that things like that don't happen to people like me. And they certainly don't happen when you're doing what you're supposed to be doing. You're in your apartment with the doors and windows locked at nine o'clock in the evening. So it just completely, it turned my life upside down. I was very confused, I felt like you know something very special and very private had been taken away from me, and I didn't really quite know what to do about it.

RHS: You called the police?

HG: Immediately.

RHS: Did he exit shortly after the incident?

HG: He did and thank goodness, thank the Lord that he didn't hurt me any further. He fled the apartment and I immediately called the police right after the attack and reported it. Unfortunately, he hasn't been caught yet, but we're hopeful that he will be.

RHS: How did you get through the tragedy?

HG: Well, immediately I knew that I had two choices. I could either run from God or I could run to Him. And I'm so thankful that I made the choice that I did to cling to God because honestly my relationship with God and with Christ was the only thing that I felt like I had left in my life. And looking back on the weeks

and the months before the attack, I sincerely believe that He was preparing me for what happened. And I don't mean I had some sort of a psychic premonition that this was going to happen, but I started really getting the urge to read the Bible more and to kind of learn more about the word and what God is telling us everyday. I started listening to Christian music in the car, which really just kept my mind focused, so I know that He was with me before the attack happened. Then during the attack, I know that He was with me as well. One of the first thoughts that I had during the rape was Hilary, you have to forgive this man and I can tell you right now that's not what I would have been thinking at that time. And so I know that He was there with me, keeping me safe.

RHS: The very thought, that positive, redemptive thought coming into your brain, it was a God moment in your life.

HG: Absolutely. It made it so clear that He was there with me even when I felt like I was so alone and so helpless. I had Jesus Christ with me and it was just the most amazing feeling. And then after, as I was trying to recover, I knew that He was with me as well. I remember, I was feeling very lonely and very scared one day, and I was in my room just kind of crying and having a little pity party and thinking nobody understands what I'm feeling, nobody knows what I'm going through, and all of a sudden I felt God really speak to my heart saying, no I was there with you. I know what you're going through. And the biggest smile just came over my face, I'm sure it looked really weird with tears streaming down my face, but I just knew at that moment that yes, God was with me and He'll be with me forever. So it just made it that much easier to have the hope for the future and to be able to get through the pain and the hurt that I was feeling with Christ in my life.

RHS: Wow. What message would you like everybody to carry with them listening to your testimony this morning?

HG: I think there's two main things and I think the first is that no matter what you're facing in life, you can overcome it with a relationship, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. He can get you through anything. You know there's nothing in this world that He can't help you overcome. And then the second thing is that God has a purpose for your life. God has a purpose for each and every person out there and I've learned that because He's taken this horrible tragedy in my life and He's using it for His glory because now I have this testimony where I can tell people no, this is what Jesus Christ has done in my life, this is why you need Him in yours. And He's taken something that was so evil and so awful and He's using it for good, and I just think that shows that no matter what you're facing in life, you can overcome it and it can be eventually used for God's glory.

RHS: So God doesn't plan these evil acts but He sees them when they're happening and He comes in with the last word, takes the stage, puts His arm around the wound and lonely, hurting person, and gives them a kiss of mercy. Thank you very much.

HG: Thank you so much.

RHS: May God bless you.

HG: Thank you.

PIANO/VIOLIN DUET – MIN & YOON KWON – “Amazing Grace”

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER

"Walking in Your Own Shoes – Part I"

RAS: So with that I've got to tell you what my wife called me today. Can you believe that? It wasn't bad, don't worry, she's nice. She said I think you're going to be known as the shoe guy. That's what she said. I said well that's nothing new, you have to realize my name is Schu-ller. And not only that, you must realize that when I was in 5th grade, some kid made a joke and called me shoe head and that stuck with me all the way through high school. I was known as shoe head. That was my nick name. Can you believe it? I hated it. Absolutely hated it. But God has a very good sense of humor, you know? He loves to kind of manipulate things and twist things around, just to kind of.. just enough to give us a great big surprise when we least expect it, it lands up being the greatest blessings in the world.

Well when I look at all of the different pieces that are coming together in this ministry and where we've been coming from in the last couple of years, I get very excited. It was only two weeks ago that my mother suggested, Robert why don't you collect shoes. Do something tangible to fit in with your message of walking in your own shoes. And as a result of that, you have the truck out there. How many people brought a pair of shoes today? How many people remembered? Would you stand up? If you brought a pair of shoes today, would you please stand up? I want to thank you. Thank you for bringing shoes today. Thank you. I appreciate it very, very much.

Now I know some people forgot and that's okay, but do you know what? The truck will be here next week, so you can bring them next week and we're just going to continue to collect shoes for the next few weeks because there are over one point five million homeless kids in the United States alone. And we have partnered with Samaritan's Purse. That's Franklin Graham's organization. Billy Graham's son, and we have partnered with them to help us distribute these shoes to the children who need them and we're going to put shoes on children's feet. Isn't that wonderful? It really is.

Well you know I dedicated this book to a gentleman named Anthony. It's an unlikely person to dedicate a book to, but Anthony was a farmer. He was born at the end of the 18th century and or 19th century rather, and he was a man who wanted to be a minister in the Reformed Church in America, our denomination, but because he didn't have the means to be able to get the scholastics necessary to become a minister, he never was able to fulfill the dreams he had for his own personal life. Instead, he landed up following in his father's footsteps, and being a farmer, taking care of the farm. And he took care of his family very well. And he prayed and prayed and prayed that if he couldn't be a minister, maybe he could have a son who would be a minister because a hundred years ago, you had to be a male to be a minister in the Reformed Church in America, our denomination, actually used to be called the Dutch Reformed Church in America. That has since gone away a long time ago and we have many, many women who are ordained in the ministry and encourage that and support that wholeheartedly. But a hundred years ago, that wasn't the case.

And so he prayed he'd have a son who could go into the ministry and God gave him a son. His name was Henry. And Henry was tall and thin and good looking and was strong and looked like he could have been a minister. Only thing is, he

wanted nothing to do with speaking, he loved working with his hands, he loved tilling the soil, he loved the farm and his shoes were to walk in his father's footsteps and be a farmer. And he was.

Well he had three more children, all of whom were girls. Disqualified from ministry in their time. And his wife grew out of her child bearing years. That was Anthony. And I dedicated my book to him because he walked in his own shoes. And all of us need to walk in our own shoes and what does it mean to walk in our own shoes? Well, if I look at my past and look at the way that God has guided and led me, I see that I truly am walking in my own shoes. As a child, I used to.. we would call it, I called it playing grown up because as a boy I didn't want to play dress up. And all of my sisters, they played dress up, I played grown up. And so what that meant is, we went and raided our parent's closets and we put on nerd clothes. Not really. What we did is we just put on my dad's jacket and I'd put on my dad's shoes. They were this big and my feet were this big. How many can remember doing that as a child and putting on your parent's shoes and your parent's clothes and the jacket would hang down to my ankles and the shoes, there was four inches left in the back of those shoes and walk around and you'd play grown up, or as the girls would call it dress up. I remember doing that.

I remember as a young man always knowing that I wanted to go into the ministry and as such I did all kinds of things to practice for the ministry. One of my things my father did when the church was young is he would stand at the back of the church before we moved into the Cathedral, he would do this and he would shake hands with everybody as they left the church. Well, what I did as a small boy is I would go and I would crawl underneath his robe. Now what you don't know is that the robes have little slits in them right around here so you can stick your hands through the robe and into your pants pocket if you need to to pull something out, you know? So what I would do is I'd crawl underneath that robe and then I'd stick my hand out of that slot. And I'd shake hands with everybody as they left the church. I have absolutely no idea what it looks like. To this day, all I ever saw was this robe across my face and nose, and after awhile it got pretty hot and I was good for about five, ten minutes and then I was out of there. I was gone. But you know then I went into seminary and I spent four years in seminary and I spent four years in college and at that time then I came out of seminary and people started using the old expression, maybe you've heard it before. They would say you have some big shoes to fill. That's what they'd say to me. I heard that so many times, I became so sick of that statement, I'm telling you, God has the best sense of humor in the whole world! How many people have thought that, I have some big shoes to fill? Its okay, you can raise your hand. I know if.. I've heard it said enough where there has to be a hundred times as many people or thinking it and won't ever tell me that. And the facts are I do have some big shoes to fill. But the bigger facts are that my father wears a ten and a half and I wear a twelve. That's the truth. I'm not making this up. It is what it is.

And God has called us to walk in our own shoes, meaning if I wanted to walk in my father's shoes, I couldn't. Not only are they too small, but they're not what God has designed me to be. So what we need to do is to realize that God has called every single one of us to walk in our own shoes. So what does that mean for this ministry? Well, if I'm going to walk in my own shoes, I have to walk in my own shoes. And my father, when he started this ministry, he started it on the roof top of a snack bar in a drive in theater. I mean some people.. a lot of people don't even know what a drive in theater is anymore. There aren't a whole lot of those things left. But they used to be a theater where people would drive in, you stick this speaker in the window of the car and you watch the movie that's

projected up on a big screen out there. And they always had a snack bar and that's where he would stand and deliver his messages. Well it was not the most sacred place in the world. So all he did is stick a cross on top of the snack bar rooftop in order to create some kind of sanctity, he put on his scholarly robe so they wouldn't think he was some kind of a bum who rolled off of the street and crawled up there and started preaching. It's not part of the tradition of our denomination to wear robes. And as a result, he gave it some dignity. And so he started wearing those robes.

Well here we are in the Crystal Cathedral today. And I believe that part of walking in my own shoes is to say that I think its time for us to be able to reach more people of my generation and my son's generations, and the generations to come who don't understand what the whole robe thing is all about. And so I think its very important for me to wear something that's going to be able to break down any barriers that are going to keep people from hearing the message because that's what we're all about is sharing the message of Jesus Christ in the most warm and welcoming way we possibly can. And so that's why I'm not wearing a robe. It's part of wearing my own shoes. That's why we brought the message closer to the audience. We used to have our messages up there at the pulpit. But we were too far away. I couldn't see into the eyes of people, I couldn't get close enough. And I noticed that every time we had the Glory set in here, we were close and it felt good and it felt right and I said we've got to move it down here. And we did. It's part of wearing our own shoes. Being part of the reality today where people are. Reaching a new generation, reaching the next generations. Communicating in a positive, beautiful, loving way, the warmth of God's love for everybody. And that's what it's all about.

So that's where we are. But what's important for us to realize is that God calls us all to walk in our own shoes. As such, He gives us all gifts and talents with which to work, to walk and to experience God's direction for our lives. For Anthony, it was to be farmer. For Henry, it was to be a farmer. And to each of us, it is the unique gifts that God has given to us to walk and to be the people He's called us to be.

Since I've written this book, I have seen many different things in my life come together. I went into seminary in 1976. And that same year I did my first funeral, and I've been doing funerals ever since then. In case you haven't done the math, that's 31 years of funerals and I've done several funerals, lots and lots of funerals. And last week I had a funeral for a friend of mine, I met him through Donna. And Donna lost her father when she was 13 and so she found other gentleman who she kind of latched on to who became a father figure for her, and one of these individuals was a guy by the name of Otho Behr and he lived in Hawaii and we would go and visit them once in awhile and see him and that's how I met and became familiar with Otho.

Well Otho passed away and I think he was 91 years old; he had a wonderful life and successful life. And Otho passed away and they had his funeral and so we were over at a cemetery not far from here and they had a tent set up in front of his gravesite and they had a little bench set up there with a few items that is not unusual, a picture and that kind of a thing. But this is the first time in my life that I've ever gone and watched them set it up where they set these things on there: the urn, a picture and of all things a pair of shoes. His shoes. They put Otho's shoes on the bench. Birkenstocks to be exact because that's all he ever wore was an old worn out pair of Birkenstocks, in fact the clasps were all corroded from the salt water where he lived. And I looked at those shoes and I said you know those are the shoes that Otho wore, and here we are, launching a campaign to raise shoes

for kids, launching a campaign to encourage people to walk in their own shoes and there's Otho's shoes. What an affirmation to me of the reality of how God is truly affirming everything that He's doing. I don't believe it was a coincidence. I believe it was what I call a God incident. When God stepped in and said these things are going to happen.

Well today, we're continuing to help people walk and find their own shoes. I believe it's imperative for us to encourage people to find this message today, more than ever before, because the fact is that society and the world wants us to walk in their shoes instead of our own shoes. The world has this seductive way of presenting pleasure and happiness associated with sex, drugs and money. All of which totally lead to death and destruction. But only when we define and understand and realize God's plan for our lives, and discover that God has created every single one of us with a purpose and a reason do we realize the direction that God has for us.

Let me give you my text for walking in your own shoes. It is this: "God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him, Who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these things, He has given us His very great and precious promises so that through them, you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires." When we understand God's promises and cling to these promises and live by the promises that God has given to us, we live a life that is pure and pleasing to God. We walk in our own shoes.

Anthony the gentleman, the farmer I dedicated my book to? Jenny was beyond child bearing years, but God didn't know that. And she became pregnant. And she had a little boy. And they named him Robert Harold. And Anthony and Jenny Schuller gave birth and today you know him as Robert Harold Schuller.

Anthony walked in his own shoes. Henry walked in his own shoes. Robert Harold walked in his own shoes. I promise to walk in the shoes that God has given to me in my own shoes. And I pray that you will discover the shoes that God has for you and make a commitment and in unwavering determination, to walk steadfastly in the shoes that God has given to you, Amen.