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## HOOR OF POWER OF 27.01.2008

### 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 beautiful day to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. Well I want to invite you all now to take a moment and shake hands with those who are standing next to you and behind you. Please, turn around and say God loves you and so do I.

And as we continue our worship service this morning, would you please join me as we have a moment of prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for this glorious opportunity that we have to stand in this beautiful place and feel Your Holy Spirit as it descends upon our souls and our minds and our hearts. Allow this hour to encourage us and to lift us up and to give us the hope and the faith that You want us to have. Help us to open our ears to hear the message that You want us to hear, and may we leave this place better people today because we were here and surrounded by You. We love You Lord, Amen.

### HYMN - "In Thanksgiving, Let Us Praise Him"

From the first bright light of morning, to the last warm glow of dusk; Every breath we take is sacred, for it is God's gift to us.

In thanksgiving, let us praise Him; in thanksgiving, let us sing songs of praise and adoration to our gracious Lord and King.

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.

Safe within His hand that guides us, hidden in His healing wings;  
Day by day His love provides us every good and perfect thing. In thanksgiving, let us praise Him; in thanksgiving let us sing songs of praise and adoration to our gracious Lord and King.

### SCRIPTURE – Psalm 95 - RAS

RAS: Please be seated. As we reflect upon the season of thanksgiving, I wish to read a passage from Psalms, the words of David. Hear these words: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgivings and extol Him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great king above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth and the mountain peaks belong to Him. The sea is His for He made it

and His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care.

We thank God for the wonderful readings of David.

ANTHEM - "Thanks be to God (Elijah)"

Thanks be to God! He waters the thirsty land. Thanks be to God! He waters the thirsty land, the thirsty land. Thanks be to God,

He waters the thirsty land. Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God!

The waters gather, they rush along! They are lifting their voices! The waters gather, they rush along, the waters gather, they rush along! The waters gather, they rush along, they rush along, they rush along, they rush along! Thanks be to God! He waters the thirsty land. Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God! The waters gather, they rush along, the waters gather, they rush along. He waters the thirsty land. Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God! He waters the thirsty land!

The stormy billows are high, their fury is mighty; The stormy billows are high, their fury is mighty; mighty their fury. But the Lord, but the Lord, but the Lord, but the Lord is above them, and Almighty. Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God! He waters the thirsty land! Thanks be to God!

The stormy billows are high, their fury is mighty but the Lord, but the Lord, but the Lord, but the Lord is above them, and Almighty, but the Lord, but the Lord, but the Lord, but the Lord is above them, and Almighty.

Thanks be to God! He waters the thirsty land. Thanks be to God He waters the thirsty land. Thanks be to God, thanks be to God, He waters the thirsty land. Thanks be to God! He waters the thirsty land. Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God!

The waters gather, they rush along; The waters gather, they rush along, they rush along, they rush along! Thanks be to God! He waters the thirsty land: Thanks be to God! He waters the thirsty land!

INTERVIEW – SHAUN ALEXANDER

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RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER      SA : SHAUN ALEXANDER

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RAS: I am really, really excited this morning, to be able to introduce you to our guest here in the Crystal Cathedral. He is the winner of the prize 2005 NFL most valuable player of the year, Shaun Alexander. Shaun's rise to fame began in 2001, when he set the Seattle Seahawks franchise record rushing for 265 yards in a single game. Shaun's lifestyle reflects his faith and he gives God all the glory for the success he enjoys. His new book entitled, "Touchdown Alexander" illustrates his story of faith, football and pursuing his God given dream. Please welcome with me to the Crystal Cathedral, Shaun Alexander. Shaun God loves you..

SA: Thank you very much.

RAS: ..and so do we. We are really, really honored and pleased to have you here with us today.

SA: Yeah, thank you. This is exciting.

RAS: Well tell me, tell me about you know how it all begins. You don't just become a 2005 NFL player of the year by accident.

SA: You know I got a really simple story. I have a great mother. My parents were divorced when I was young but my mom just always taught me about Jesus Christ, and about fellowship and then having your friends around and one day I was looking around the house and my older brother and my best friends were all gone and they joined the local pee wee football team and that wasn't really my style to get hit or tackled or run but..

RAS: So you didn't really want to play football..

SA: Yeah, yeah..

RAS: ..it's just that there was nothing else to do. Everyone else was.

SA: You know what, I call it the calling.

RAS: Sometimes..

SA: And I went out and played and scored four touchdowns in the first game and it's been great ever since.

RAS: So what was your key, especially starting off as a child playing pee wee football as you called it, right?

SA: Yeah, you know..

RAS: Was it your speed?

SA: You know what, I think it was the fact that I didn't want to get tackled so I had that crazy..

RAS: You were motivated.

SA: ..I had that crazy motivation that every young man needs, you know, and I was just really good at making people miss, you know. So I was a great person to play tag with, you know. And it went around to the football field.

RAS: So when it comes to tag, it doesn't matter what kind of tag it is, whether its NFL tag or just tag you're it, you're good.

SA: Yep.

RAS: You're ready to roll.

SA: That's it, that's it. I now play with my three beautiful daughters and we're still playing, I'm still the champion.

RAS: You don't let them tag you, huh? Well you were raised in a small community then.

SA: Yeah, yeah.

RAS: In..

SA: Florence Kentucky.

RAS: Florence Kentucky.

SA: Yep, yep, I went to Boon County High School, there was probably about, I'd say about 12,000 people in the town, and you know, actually I have a street named after me Shaun Alexander..

RAS: Do you really? That's wonderful.

SA: ..Way, yeah. It's really cool. It goes right into the school and you know I was just.. it's a town where everybody knew what everybody was doing, so if you were going to live for God, everybody knew and if you wasn't, you know, and if you happened to be caught driving fast down the street everybody knew about it.

RAS: Everyone knew, yeah.

SA: Yeah, so it was good.

RAS: So here you are, raised in this little community, I assume then it has a little community church?

SA: Yeah, yeah actually, but I actually went to church in Cincinnati Ohio so my mom; my mom has six sisters and one brother and we.. Florence Kentucky is right about eight miles from Cincinnati Ohio, so we drove into Cincinnati and went to St. Stevens Baptist Church and that's where we grew and that's where I got saved and I remember you know one Easter Sunday, ten years old, I remember just asking my mom like man what is everybody so excited about and she told me about Jesus Christ and how people are going through something, coming out of something or getting ready for something. But Jesus knows how to handle all three of those things and I said you know what, I need to know more about this Jesus, and you know the next week, that whole week she just told me the scriptures and fed me about who Jesus was and I said my first prayer. I said Jesus I don't know much, but I do know how to be obedient. And that was the day He became my Lord.

RAS: So that was at the age of ten.

SA: Yeah, ten.

RAS: So He's followed you throughout your, I guess throughout your career, can you call high school and college a career?

SA: Yeah.

RAS: And then on into the NFL.

SA: Yeah.

RAS: And so you've had some tremendous success in the NFL, obviously. Two hundred and what did I say? Two hundred and sixty five yards in a single game?

SA: Yeah, you know..

RAS: That was a good game.

SA: Yeah it went well, you know, that was my second season in the NFL and it kind of, you know, I became like the new it guy out of nowhere and it just kind of carried on. The next year I got the NFL record for five touchdowns in one half, and it was just crazy cause it seemed like every time I was getting the ball, it was going for touchdowns and I was like gosh, this is the pro's you know? Like you know and I kept on thinking God what in the world..

RAS: Sure.

SA: ..is going on here, you know?

RAS: Yeah.

SA: But God, He's just blessed me, you know, I've been blessed to do some great things and every week I try to go out there and then give God glory and honor.

RAS: So you have a book entitled, "Touchdown Alexander: My story of faith, football and pursuing the dream." You know, people say it's easy to be a Christian when everything's going right..

SA: Yeah.

RAS: ..you know? Well sure it's easy for him, look at there. He gets five touchdowns in the half, you know.

SA: Yeah..

RAS: And he gets all these records and what do you say for people who don't have the skill set or don't have the breaks or whatever you want to call it to..

SA: You know, I think that everybody always tries to put other people's callings in their life. You know, and I..

RAS: Sure.

SA: ..think that's the most dangerous thing, because God made each and every one of us special to do a specific job, and when you start wanting Robert's job, or you want Shaun's job, you confuse yourself and I think that's one of Satan's plans, you know? Is to get you to believe that you need somebody else's job to make yourself, you know, good, or..

RAS: You need.

SA: ..or even respectful and I think that you know the truth is, God said there's many pieces of the body but there's just one body, so you know, if you're the little toe we need that little toe, you know?

RAS: Absolutely.

SA: And you know last year I broke.. I had a little crack in the mid foot of my left foot and everybody's like man, you know, I can't believe that all these years, all these great.. now you've got an injury. And then I was like you know what? Every body part is needed and lets you know that even if you're just the fourth metatarsal on the left foot, you know, we need it.

RAS: Which is the one you broke, right?

SA: Needed, you know? I mean miss two months of football just for not having that bone and..

RAS: Wow.

SA: ..that's what I always tell people was like you might not be the running back or you might not be the great pastor, or you might just be the person that's just working hard, don't let the world say that that's not valuable cause it is.

RAS: So how do you deal with setbacks like that?

SA: Well for me when it comes to sports and football in general, I always have to stick to the fact that football is what I do and I love to do but its not who I am.

RAS: Right.

SA: You know, and like when all of a sudden, you know, you get a job and that becomes who you are, you're starting to violate what God's calling on you because now you have an idol and its really subtle, like you know, and I always tell people that there is few people that are in the church that say I'm not going to listen to God, I'm going to go with my own plan, what happens is they just are really subtle, Satan just takes their focus, you know, and you know like even right now, with my team, you know, I have a lot of great years and then this year for me just stats wise, you know, we're fighting. You know, we're..

RAS: Sure.

SA: ..we're in first place but we're fighting with everything we got and my stats don't look as good and people are like what's wrong with Shaun? And I'm like well you know what, the stats are not who I am. I'm not going to make touchdowns my god, I'm not going to make yards my god, I'm not even going to make winning my god, I'm just going to play hard and let God fix it, let God do what He wants to do, and that doesn't mean that I don't want to win.

RAS: Of course you do.

SA: I want to win.

RAS: Sure.

SA: You know, and I want to score five touchdowns in one half again, you know?

RAS: You don't mind that, huh?

SA: Right, that's okay. But its not..

RAS: You don't care which half it is either.

SA: Right, yeah, it could be in the second half, you know. But at the same time it's not going to consume who I am. I don't want anybody ever not to set goals, you know what I mean? Because you got to set goals to get to where you want, but at the same time, the number one goal should be God, Jesus Christ.

RAS: Put God first is what you're saying.

SA: And that's it, yeah.

RAS: And how do you do that? How do you make sure you put God first every day?

SA: I think it's a choice, and the first choice has to be every day I'm going to get up in the morning and I'm going to go to God, you know, and I don't care if you're praying, if you're reading your word, if you're sitting on a conversation with your wife or you wives with your husband, you know, or just guys in the office just sitting together, you got to go find a way to put God first and then make it a lifestyle, you know, its hard. I mentor a bunch of young men and it's always like I'm like man make it a lifestyle, not a bunch of rules, because rules it's easy to you know.. okay I get up, brush my teeth, say my prayer, read the word, next thing you know you don't even remember what you read or what you prayed about, you know, because you're following rules and formats. But when it's a lifestyle, it consumes you. It is who you are. And then it's just easy.

RAS: So you've decided to make the Christian faith, part of who Shaun is.

SA: Yes.

RAS: And it's just first and foremost from the inside out as opposed from the outside in.

SA: Yeah, and I think it's just.. you have freedom now. You know, I mean you have freedom where you don't have to follow a bunch of rules like..

RAS: Sure.

SA: ..my wife and I will talk to new married couples. You know we've only been married five years but we talk to our..

RAS: And you have how many children?

SA: ..we have three.

RAS: Three girls, right?

SA: Three girls, yes. And you know we'll talk and I'll be like hey if my wife and I are having a good conversation and its Wednesday night and we're driving to church and the conversation is going good, we'll drive right past the church and keep on going. And its because we love our church and we love our pastor and what he's teaching us, but our life is not the pastor or the church, its Jesus Christ, so sometimes if God's saying hey you guys have a great conversation, you all pull off and have a good conversation at Starbucks you know. That's what we're going to do. We're going to fall in love with Jesus and not with a bunch of rituals.

RAS: So you make it internal, and I think that's really, really beautiful, it really is. And I think that God is in the process of blessing you as a result of it. And I hope you feel God's blessings here today.

SA: Yeah, I do. I do, it's a great place.

RAS: So your mother, you were telling me earlier that your mother had a tremendous impact in your life.

SA: Yeah, yeah, you know, my mom; I think parents need to know this, you know, my mom never forced church down our throats, but I'd always see her just reading on the balcony, reading the Bible and I was like oh that's kind of interesting. She just kind of does that all the time, you know, and you know even when it came to church, after we got to a certain age, it wasn't hey get up and go to church or you're going to go to hell, you know, it was just okay, hey..

RAS: That's what I'm going to do.

SA: ..hey I'm about to go learn about Jesus and you know and here we go, you know? And every day that's what our life was about was about learning something new about ourselves and learning about Jesus, and it was just great, so I just love how my mom did that and that's how we've been in our household. We make our household..

RAS: That was going to be my next question, so how do you give that to your girls then?

SA: ..we just make our life fun. We have joy in our house, you know, so you know it would be nothing to see my two year old Trinity screaming Jesus loves me this I know, you know, and it's not because we're like oh you better sing it, you know, you can't sing this song by so and so, no its not that deep, its just that no this is who we are, so when you're going to sing a joy or a victory song, these are the songs that bring us joy and victory. And we will raise them up in that way, and then after awhile we will step back and let them choose. And God says that He will take care of that.

RAS: You've created a foundation.

SA: Yeah.

RAS: Tell us about your foundation.

SA: Well you know I started my foundation right at college, right when I was finishing my college thing and got my brother who Notre Dame grad came on back and we started.. we just want to help people. And we didn't really know how we were going to do it, we just knew people with a little bit of money, they start foundations. And it was crazy but we got it all the way down and my brothers went on and hired new people and we got it down to this, you know, what is my goal is: I want to mentor young people to change the world. So I've partnered up with four organizations that can do that, and I want people to grow in their faith, their education or in a vision for their future.

RAS: The book again is "Touchdown Alexander: My story of faith, football and pursuing the dream."

SA: Yeah.

RAS: You pursued your dream at the University of Alabama, that's where you really..

SA: Yeah.

RAS: ..started, right?

SA: Yeah, you know, I've got all kinds of stories about you know just my life there, you know, I was a bench warmer my freshman year, third string running back and the first two guys get hurt in the game against LSU, and coach throws me in the game and I had memorized my first like Shaun Alexander, this is who I am Bible verse that week. And..

RAS: What is that Bible verse?

SA: It's Psalms 37:4. Now in that game, you know, they throw me in the game, the first carry is a touchdown, the second carry is a seventy yard touchdown, the third carry is a gain of one then the fourth carry is another seventy yard touchdown and everybody's looking around like what is this guy..

RAS: Who's this guy?

SA: ..what is this freshman doing from Florence Kentucky? We were..

RAS: Sure.

SA: ..we weren't sure if we were going to get this kid and I end the game with 20 carries, two hundred and ninety one yards and four touchdowns and people are hugging me and Alabama's going to play in the championship game and you know and I remember one of the guys came and gave me a big old hug and he said yeah one of the boys was telling me that you got your life verse now, and I was like yeah Psalms 37:4, I just memorized it. He was like what's it say? Delight yourself in the Lord and He'll give you the desires of your heart.

RAS: Oh, beautiful.

SA: And I was like man, and he was like yeah He's real, ain't He? And I was like man, I was like I've always know God but God was saying..

RAS: Sure.

SA: ..like yeah, you know you enjoy learning about me and watch where I'll take you. I'll take you to be with your real goal is, which my goal was being an impact to God's kingdom. So like you had all these guys on my team that were like oh this kid's, you know, wonder how he's going to be on this big college campus, you know?

RAS: Sure, sure.

SA: And God was like, I'm going to show you, you're going to be an impact. And it's been awesome since.

RAS: So it's been nothing but more victory since then and I know this is a tough year for you but in spite of it I think you're going to go all the way with your team. I mean you're still in first right?

SA: Yeah, we're in first place, now yep.

RAS: Yeah and it's not supposed to be easy.

SA: No.

RAS: No, it's supposed to be tough. If it was easy, who'd want it?

SA: You know a good friend of mine, his dad sat down with us, he plays with New England Patriots now..

RAS: Yeah.

SA: ..and he said boys you got to remember, smooth sailing don't make good sailors.

RAS: Yeah, that's the truth. Well..

SA: And we live for that.

RAS: ..well Shaun we want to thank you for your faith, we want to thank you for what you're doing for the kingdom of God..

SA: Yeah.

RAS: ..we want to thank you for what you're doing on the football field.

SA: Yeah, thank you so much.

RAS: And we just thank you for coming here and for sharing your faith and your love with us.

SA: Yeah, thank you.

RAS: God bless you, your family and go with you always.

SA: Thank you, thank you.

SOLO – JASON CATRON – “In Pastures Green” In pastures green, Your breath of new life softly whispers. In oceans blue, Your Spirit moves upon the waters. You bring down the thunder with awesome wonder You command the storms, "Be still."

You are the Lord, my God; You are the Author of creation. You are the Holy One, You lay the earth's foundation. Heavenly angel songs extol You and all the earth bows down before You, Master and Maker, Lord and Creator of all.

You are the Lord, my God; You are the Author of creation. You are the Holy One, You lay the earth's foundations. Heavenly angel songs extol You, and all the earth bows down before You, Master and Maker, Lord and Creator of all. Master and Maker Lord and Creator of all.

#### MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT H. SCHULLER

"The Shoe Can't Tell the Foot How Big to Grow"

RHS: Well, thrilled to be back with you in a preaching role. And I'm trying to fit into his series of sermons, "Walking in Your Own Shoes." Great title. The only problem is I should have thought of it first. Well anyway, I stopped to think, have I ever preached on shoes? Yes. It's one of the greatest messages I've ever given. Fifty thousand leading pastors from around the world heard it. They were members of my school called Schuller Institute for Successful Church Leadership. Many of the pastors of the largest churches today oh like Bill Hybels or Rick Warren, came to this institute 35 years ago, 34 years ago, 33.. they came and they all heard this sentence: the shoe must not tell the foot how big to grow. Cause I had all these ministers. When they came, they had to fill out a questionnaire and I would pass on my critiques to them. What I think they should do or some advice for what its worth. And I passed it on, and it's in my book, "Your Church has Real Possibilities." It came when they almost all answered the question how many parking spaces do you have. And nobody had enough parking spaces. Churches up till this church really didn't bother about big parking lots. They would ask the city council must we have parking lots, how many do we need and they'd take the advice from them. I said imagine getting the people you wish were coming to church, then how many parking spaces do you need. Don't let the parking set your leadership goals, set your leadership goals based on how much I would need to park if I had the people coming that I wish I had. At any rate, it made a difference. The shoe must not tell the foot how big to grow. Now that's a universal principle.

You're not in a church, you probably aren't running a church, but that principle applies to you and it applies to me. We set up limits that keep God from doing the bigger thing He wants to do in our life. We can't do that.

I remember when I was going to write my first book and I remembered the one I got in college. I don't think I've ever told you this before. It was in writing. So I wasn't a writer. Then one day I tried to practice what I preached and it's this kind of stuff I'm giving you now, so I put a piece of paper and I put it in a typewriter. Looking at another one of my slogans on the wall, beginning is half done, and I'd rather attempt something great and fail than attempt to do nothing and succeed. I put in the paper and I typed out a title of a book, "Move Ahead with Possibility Thinking." Man. And a publisher in a weak moment, I think, agreed to publish it. And I became a writer. And for the past two weeks, let me say, I've been writing another book, because I'm practicing the sermon I'm preaching this morning.

Out of that book which will be published a year from now, stuff came out that has changed me in the last six weeks. The one line is I'll give it to you: Something is in nothing. Even though we don't understand it, probably, or believe it necessarily, say it out loud will be the first time in my earthly life I've heard anybody say it. Something is in nothing. You see it in the Garden of Eden. Nothing. But something is in that nothing. It's usually an idea. It's usually an idea. It's usually an idea that's connected to a person. Or an idea connected to somebody that we probably have never met. Something is in nothing. There was something in nothing before Adam and Eve were created. The something was a power, it was a presence, it was an intelligence, it was a cosmic energy. It was God.

Easy for you to believe actually. Today you're in a generation that can believe that very easily where they couldn't a hundred, two hundred years ago. Today you can look at a room, there's nothing in there but there are voices in there. There's music in there. There are plays in there, movies in there, there's a lot in that nothingness but you need an instrument to pick it up. The TV set, computer, and so it is with a something that is in nothing. You need an instrument to pick it up. It's built within you. You have the capacity. You have to learn how to turn it on and then how to set it to the right dial. The something that is nothing is a spirit. It is the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is, if you're a Christian, the presence of Christ or the presence of the Holy Spirit. It's there. But you need to have an instrument that will turn it on. That instrument was potentially created in you! Everybody has that potential. I use the word potential. What is that instrument? It's called faith. You have been born with a power to exercise a thing called faith. As far as we know, there is no other creature: fowl, animal, or fish, no other living creature has that instrument built within him. You have to turn it on. Now for many people, they turn it off. They don't realize they are limiting God. Once a man said to me if what you say is true, why in the world didn't God give us all faith? I said He gave that instrument into every brain with the capacity, but you have to turn it on. If He gave it to you by nature like I'm hungry, it wouldn't be faith anymore. It would be a sensory science. And then it wouldn't have the power of faith. The faith has a tremendous power to build imaginary bridges and connections. Here's the Bible verse. Isaiah 54 verse 2: "Enlarge the place where your tent stands." Hear that: which means you've got ideas, you have opinions, you have interpretations, some you haven't shared, some you have. And you're not going to share them with me; I don't need to hear it. The verb, most important word in most sentences as a writer, let me say this, are verbs. Enlarge the place

where your tent stands. Enlarge it. THINK bigger! Think longer! Think deeper! Enlarge the place where your tent stands. Lengthen the cords, strengthen the stakes.

Now how do you set your goals? Set your goals by what you as a Christian should be doing. First, walk in your own shoes. There are people you know that I don't know. There are people that are hurting, I don't know. There are people that are depressed and I don't know them. There are people that'll commit suicide and I don't know them. Shall I go on and on and on? If I keep going on and on, I'm going to stop with my finger pointed at you! Enlarge the place where your tent stands. Don't limit God. Don't let your success limit God. Oh I've got what I need, I've got enough, etc. Then I've got a faith, I know I'm going to heaven so that's enough. That's not enough.

Enlarge your faith. Lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes. Where are you this morning? You have a faith in God? Great. Faith in Jesus Christ? Maybe, well stop there. If you don't, go for Him. He will bring qualities to your life to say nothing of eternal salvation who preach about it all the time. You know why haven't you accepted Christ if you haven't? And if you're an agnostic or an atheist, why? It's because you have established limits, boundaries, fences on the ideas that God keeps sending to you.

There was this man I heard of when I was a student. So long ago I don't remember his name, but I heard he was a very famous preacher. And he talked about his own witness. He said I became an atheist in high school then in solid as a rock atheist in the university. These were all the brightest people in the world, and most of them didn't believe in God as far as I could tell. So I became a hardened atheist and decided I was going to spread atheism so I could enlighten and make more intelligent the people I lived with. And he said that's where I was when one Sunday morning I was out for a walk and I walked by this big church and I heard music coming out of there. So I stepped in, stood at the back. I really don't remember much about the sermon or the music, but at the end the minister said I want you to become a believer. It's just a decision. Don't debate it. Don't argue it. You'll never win the argument. Nobody will. It's got to be left in the realm of faith.

And then he said, the minister closed with prayer, I didn't close my eyes. Everybody else did and I looked around, everybody was praying. There I saw the white hair of my head of my physics department. He was famous as being the most intellectual, the most brilliant, the most talented professor of the university. He goes to church? Must be something to this or he wouldn't go to church. And after the prayer, I stared at him, his face and head went up and I saw a radiance coming out of that face, radiance I never saw in the classroom. Never saw it before. It came out of that prayer thing. And I said, must be a God. Something happened to him the last minute or two when they were praying. And then I thought I'm going to become a believer. Believers aren't crazy after all and he became a believer. Wow.

The shoe must not tell the foot how big to grow. Your doubts must not tell your faith how to be enlarged. Your sickness, what is it, must not tell you how long you're going to live, or how you can or cannot find healing. Leadership is the force that sets your goals. Walk in your own shoes! You make the decision. Don't

listen to people that talked you into whatever it is that's negative. And for sure, atheism is negative. Meet Jesus Christ. Will that change me? It surely will.

I sat next to a man often in the Rotary Club meeting in Garden Grove and he and I were closest of friends. I don't think I had a closer friend there than Benny T. And I think in his heart he had a lot of Jesus, even though he practiced another faith. And I think all of those good qualities that were coming out of him; I think he got infected by people that believed in Jesus. But for understandable reasons, he could not convert. I don't know, the most beautiful Christians I ever met. Yes he was Jewish; yes his name is Benny T. Don't suppose there's anybody here that ever heard of Benny T. Anybody? I doubt it very much. He's been gone many years.

At his death, people stood up and told stories and one man told a story that topped them all. He said you know, I'll never forget the story that a few days before Christmas this guy came into Benny T's shoe store and he made shoes. He could create them in his mind and with leather stitches. He was known for that. This man came into the store very poorly dressed, holding the hand of a little boy that was walking odd. Obviously did not have normal feet. The man came up to put his hands, waited for Benny to come from his machine to take his order, he used his right hand and said thank you for seeing me. His right hand was closed. It was holding something. Later on when he accidentally exposed it a little, Benny T. saw it was a ten-dollar bill. He spotted the money. The man said I've been sent here because they tell me that here in California in Orange County; Benny T. can make shoes, any kind of shoes. See my son? Look at his feet. They're both abnormal. Born that way. These shoes are so old, I keep putting cardboard inside, the tops don't wear out. I found out you don't get holes in the top of your shoes. He's had these a long time. But I'd sure like to get him a new pair. We lived back East, just came here and I was told Benny T. could make them. And you know Christmas is only a few days away. I want to give it to him for Christmas.

And it was about that point where Benny T. saw that what was in his left hand was money, paper money, and he read the numbers one zero. It was a ten-dollar bill. He'd usually charge from 50 to 100 dollars for a custom made shoes. So he answered him, pleading father saying you know, see those shoes in the shop there? I promised them all they'd be fixed by Christmas. I don't have much time left. I hope to God I can get them fixed because they're counting on them as Christmas presents. Yes, I can fix your shoe but not before Christmas. And he sensed a dismay go over the father's face.

So the father left with the little boy, Benny worked hard and the father, hoping for a miracle, came back December 24 late in the afternoon and said by any chance. And Benny T. said no chance. I close shop in 60 minutes. I'm still finishing the one that I promised. But come back, I'll do it for you. The man left. That night at 3:00 in the morning, his telephone rang. It was Benny T. saying well I just finished your shoes. They're here and I'm open for you if you want to come on over. The man drove over there; brand new custom-made shoes for this disfigured and deformed feet. And he said how much will that cost me? Benny T. said well I usually get a low of fifty dollars and a high of a hundred dollars. But he said these came pretty easy so I'll only charge you ten dollars. And the man opened his palm and there was his one and only ten-dollar bill.

Now that's Benny T. Don't let anything limit you from thinking bigger, thinking more generously, thinking more kindly, more Christ like. You set your goals, you make your decisions. You're the only one that can do that. And you're the only one that can say no, when the idea comes into your mind. Wow.

Never let problems, never let pain, never let hardship, never let your limitations tell you how big to think. The shoe must never call the foot and tell him how big to grow. Let's pray: And oh God, You brought us here and this is the place where You've chosen to communicate and make believers out of people that listen to this from these pews, or from television sets from Russia to China and only You know where. Oh God, we're stepping in new shoes today. We look at what we've limited, why we've limited them, and we heard You speak to us in Your own words from the Holy Bible when You said enlarge the tent. Lengthen the cords. Strengthen the stakes. We are. Hallelujah, Amen.

HYMN - "Medley - Rejoice, the Lord is King"

Rejoice the Lord is King: Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His Kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and heaven; The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word, just to rest upon His promise, just to know "Thus says the Lord." Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er! Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!

Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call, trusting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God. Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior. Standing, standing! I'm standing on the promises of God.

BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: Now may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. And may God give you power to think bigger than you ever thought before. May God give you power to find gain in your pain. May God give you the power to turn your hurts into halos and may God give you peace wherever you are, Amen.

HYMN – “For the Beauty of the Earth”

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies. Lord of all, to You we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.