

HOUR OF POWER OF 10.02.2008

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RAS: Good morning. And welcome to the Crystal Cathedral. We want to give you an opportunity right now to be able to welcome those who are standing next to you and behind you, around you. Please, go out of your way, shake at least three hands and say God loves you and so do I.

We're going to continue to worship God in prayer, so would you please join me. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that You're a God who cares, a God who loves, a God who touches hearts, souls and minds with Your presence, with Your reality, with Your goodness. And so we thank You for the privilege we have to come here to sing, to praise You, to worship You. We love You Lord, Amen.

Now as you remain standing, let us sing this chorus of songs, beginning with "O For a Thousand Tongues to sing, my Great Redeemer's praise."

HYMN - "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

Jesus, the name that calms my fears, that bids my sorrows cease: It's music to my listening ears of life and health and peace.

He speaks, and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive; The mournful, broken hearts rejoice; the humble poor believe.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is Mine! O, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee. Holy! Holy! Holy! Merciful and Mighty!

God in three persons blessed Trinity!

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHEM - RAS

RAS: Please be seated. The choir this morning is going to be singing an anthem that dates back to the 19th century. What they're going to be singing is a piece that is also sung in Latin, Sanctus. It is composed by Charles Gounod, and it is performed in Latin. The translation is as thus: Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, hosanna in the highest. So please, let us listen to this wonderful song and the soloist, by the way, is a young man by the name of Ernie Alvarez.

ANTHEM - "Sanctus (Gounod)"

(SUNG IN LATIN – ENGLISH TRANSLATION BELOW)

Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, God Almighty. Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. Holy, Holy, God Almighty, God Almighty.

Heaven and earth show the glory, heaven and earth are full of Your glory full of Your glory, full of Your glory, full of Your glory. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Heaven and earth, heaven and earth show forth Your glory. Heaven and earth, heaven and earth show forth Your glory. Heaven and earth, heaven and earth show forth Your glory. All earth and heavens show forth Your glory. Glory and power be Yours forever.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy Lord. Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. Holy, Holy, God Almighty. Glory be to Your Holy Name. Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Amen, Amen.

RHS THANK YOU TO CHOIR

RHS: Thank you choir and thank you Don Neuen.

SCRIPTURE – II Corinthians 9:6-12 - RHS

RHS: So listen to the words of sacred scripture. I'm reading from St. Paul, as recorded in the second book of Corinthians, chapter nine verses 6-12. Paul is writing.

Remember this: remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written, they have scattered abroad their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever. You know my uncle who spent years as a missionary around the world said that you've never seen a Christian beg, and we're talking about India and China. Christians never beg. They help each other. They've scattered their gifts to the poor.

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of feed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made blessed in every way, so that you can be generous on every occasion and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. Oh my God, how He has blessed the world by the hundreds of millions of people, all because of your gifts that started with this church. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but it is also overflowing and many expressions of thanks to God and this is the word of the Lord.

Let us pray: Oh God, the offering plate will be passed and people will drop in their tithes and their offerings and their gifts. And these people are so generous, oh Lord. And look what You've been able to do through their generous tithes all these 52 years. And You're about to bless them as they give to You now. In the name of Christ we pray, thank You, Amen.

RHS INTRODUCES DAVID PHELPS

RHS: Now it's my privilege to welcome back to the Crystal Cathedral, multi Dove and Grammy award winner David Phelps. Hi David.

DP: Hello.

RHS: So great to have you back.

DP: Good to be here, very good to be here.

RHS: And what are you thankful for this year?

DP: Well of course it's always family is at the top of the list for me and my family prayed through a diagnosis and treatment of cancer for my sister this year and she is now cancer free and I have to say thanks for that, you know. God is good.

RHS: What are you singing for us today?

DP: Yes, it's a song from the new Christmas record "One Wintry Night." It's a song I wrote called "The Singer" and the lyric talks about how God has intervened into His own creation.

RHS: David, of course I heard you sing at the first service. It is wonderful.

DP: Thank you.

RHS: It isn't often that people applaud standing on their feet at the end of a solo. They did for you this morning. So sing for us now.

DP: Thank you.

SOLO – DAVID PHELPS – "The Singer"

The music began at His command, and the Singer drew His breath. The melody rose and dawned on the land and pierced the emptiness. And from a barren and lonely place, life began to spring. As on the stage of time and space God threw back His head and began to sing.

Let there be light, invade the darkness, oh fill up the void, replace the noise with sweet harmony and let there be joy, and echoes of laughter, and the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the Redeemed.

Now beautifully sung the song went unheard and darkness returned again. But God had a plan in the second verse to win back the hearts of men. A star in the sky that night in Bethlehem and as the baby Jesus cried, God sang out His song and the angels joined in.

Let there be light! Let there be light! Invade the darkness, invade the darkness, fill up the void, replace the noise with sweet harmony, sweet harmony and let there be joy, joy, joy, joy and echoes of laughter. And the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the Redeemed. And every time a soul receives that joyful Christmas song He rises from His throne and all creation sings along.

Let there be light, invade the darkness, oh, fill up the void, replace the noise with sweet harmony and let there be joy, joy, joy and echoes of laughter, the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the Redeemed, and the Singer sings on and still writes the song of the Redeemed. Let there be light, let the song be redeemed. Redeemed! I'm redeemed of the redeemed. Oh, of the redeemed! Redeemed!

RAS THANK YOU TO DAVID PHELPS

RAS: What a tremendous song that is David. Did you write this song or..

DP: Yes sir, yes.

RAS: Wow. I don't know about you, but I think its one of the finest Christmas songs I've ever heard.

DP: Thank you.

RAS: David, we want to thank you for coming, for sharing your music, for..

DP: My privilege.

RAS: ..giving the world this song. Thank you, David.

INTERVIEW – DJ WILLIAMS

RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER DW: DJ WILLIAMS

RAS: Well, I have a tremendous guest this morning. On July 8th of this year, just a few months ago, a young Haitian woman gave birth to a child that she didn't

want. And she dropped the baby into an outhouse hole. The outhouse hole was nearly 30 feet deep. My guest today, DJ Williams was an American UN Peace Officer, stationed in Haiti at the time and God used DJ to help save the baby girl's life. Isn't that tremendous? Would you please welcome with me DJ Williams? DJ, God loves you..

DW: Thank you.

RAS: ..and so do I.

DW: Thank you sir, thank you, God bless you this morning.

RAS: So DJ, take us back to July 8th. What happened?

DW: If I can start first by letting you know and your congregation know that I'm an ordinary man but I serve an extra ordinary God. And by His grace and His will and His mercy, I can stand before you today. And I thank God for this day.

RAS: Well that's what God does. He takes ordinary people and does extra ordinary things.

DW: Yes sir.

RAS: And that's what He did with you. He chose you to do something extra ordinary on July 8th, so how did it begin?

DW: It began.. July 8th was a Sunday, that morning I began work at six o'clock with my partner, six a.m. And we were kind of busy that morning, I was hoping to get a chance to go by my church and get a little worship in, but I wasn't able to so I was sitting out in my truck in front of the police station. I'm reading my Bible, and my partner and some of the Haitian officers came out of the station. This particular day, my interpreter had the day off. He had weekends off. And the Haitians and the.. my partner was African, they speak French. And of course I speak English. I could understand some but when they came out and what they told me, they told me that there was a baby inside of a toilet. And I'm driving and on the way I'm trying to figure out I must be missing something in the translation here, because how can a baby get inside a toilet? And on the way there we were flagged down by a lady in front of a school. She led us behind the school about a hundred yards there was an outhouse. It was the toilets for the school. And there were ten stalls, and there was a seventeen-year-old young man that was in one of the stalls, he had a flashlight and he had a piece of metal and he had a rope. And he was banging on the concrete on the stall. While he was breaking the concrete, the chunks of concrete is falling down and the baby is there so I stopped him. I took the flashlight and I looked down there and it was dim, but I could see something move. So took my digital camera out and I stuck it down as far as I could reach and I took a picture and I pulled it up and I zoomed in on the image and there was an outline of a baby.

RAS: Wow.

DW: I couldn't believe. I'm like my God, how did a baby end up in the pit? And the kid, he told me that he saw the mother that morning walking from behind the school, when she walked out there was blood on her legs and her stomach wasn't as big and he figured that she had the baby back there. So he went back and he saw where the baby had been dropped down in the pit.

RAS: So how did you get the baby out?

DW: Well, I couldn't. I didn't have anything to bust open the concrete with so I called the Sri Lanka army and they were assigned to my city in Jacmel, and they came out and they brought.. I told them that they needed to bring the tools, something to get into this pit. So they came out and they chipped away and they got inside, they sent one of the soldiers down, he repelled by rope down to the bottom of the pit. He gathered the baby, he tied her into a towel, and tied it to the rope and they pulled her out of the pit.

RAS: I think we have a little video. Would you explain what we see here?

DW: Yes. Okay, the soldiers, there's one soldier in the bottom of the pit now, he's tied the baby to the rope and they're pulling her out at this time. And she's inside this towel. There are hundreds of on lookers at the time. And everybody's standing by to see what's inside the towel.

RAS: Did the baby ever cry?

DW: I never heard her cry once while she was in the pit.

RAS: Did she ever cry when she was out of the pit?

DW: As soon as he opened the towel, she began to cry. That's the first time I heard her cry.

RAS: Wow.

DW: And if you notice, the umbilical cord and the placenta is still attached to her; she's a newborn.

RAS: Wow. So, it's a girl.

DW: Yes.

RAS: And she has a name.

DW: Yes.

RAS: And what's her name?

DW: Her name is Christela, which in Creole it means Christ was there.

RAS: When you look at that picture, what goes through your mind and your heart? What do you feel when you look at that picture?

DW: I know there is a God and that she is a miracle.

RAS: Yeah. Yeah, you sure do, don't you.

DW: Yes. Yes sir.

RAS: So where is she today?

DW: Today she's in Jacmel Haiti. She's at an orphanage called Hands and Feet Project. It's an orphanage that was found in 2004 by the Christian rock group Audio Adrenaline. They found the orphanage. The lead singer of Audio Adrenaline is Mark Stewart. His parents have been missionaries in Haiti for 20 or 30 years now. And they actually run the orphanage. They have 26 children at this time, the ages range from ages four months as Christela is four months, to nine years old. They are beautiful people, they treated me as family while I was there and being so far away from home its good to be around good Christian people that take you in and treat you as family.

RAS: How did you get connected with them?

DW: I was connected with them.. I met them through another friend who's also a missionary down there. But while I was on the way with the baby to the hospital with Christela to the hospital, I called them. I called them because of the crisis we had and I knew that they had a good pediatrician that they use for their children. So Drex, which is Mark's father, Drex answered the phone and he said DJ, I'm coming. I'll take the child, we'll adopt the child, we'll take care of the bills, everything, we're coming. So they picked up the pediatrician and they met us at the hospital, and they stayed there, Christela stayed at the hospital for three or four days, the doctor wanted to make sure everything was okay. And I told the doctor there on the spot, I said this child is fine. She didn't have any broken bones, no bruises, no scratches, no marks, no nothing.

RAS: And she fell 30 feet.

DW: She fell 30 feet. Yes sir.

RAS: How do you explain that?

DW: It's a miracle.

RAS: I know what you're going to say.

DW: It's a miracle, it's God.

RAS: Yeah.

DW: You know for a split second the devil took the mother and got into her mind to abandon this baby, to leave this baby to die. And when she did, but before she went to do that, God had already dispatched His angel, and His angel was in the pit waiting for this baby, and when she dropped the baby in my spiritual eyes, I can see the angel catching the baby and lowering her to the coolness of the floor where the Holy Spirit comforted her until we arrived. So that's why when we look down, I never heard her cry because I know that the Holy Ghost was there with her.

RAS: As soon as you unwrapped her she cried.

DW: That's.. yeah, she told us.. Yes sir.

RAS: Well tell us about the mother. What happened to her?

DW: The mother, 16 years old.

RAS: Yeah.

DW: I got a report that they arrested her and she was in jail. She began to bleed heavily and my partner left and went to the jail to pick her up to transport her to the hospital. And he came back and handed me a prescription. Now in Jacmel Haiti, we think that our medical situation here is bad sometimes but there you can be bleeding, about to die and they would not touch you until your family, your friends, or someone goes and get the IV, the gauze, the needles, the medicine, everything you need, and he brought me the prescription. And initially, I'm like why is he bringing this to me? You know I'm..

RAS: It's more than just a prescription. It's all the medical supplies.

DW: Everything. You know I'm like..

RAS: Yes.

DW: ..why is he bringing me you know and I'm concerned about this baby. You know I'm not concerned about the mother. You know I hate to say it but I was, you know, it was just like hey well, whatever happens, you know? And immediately when I said that, the million-dollar question flashed in front of my face: what would Jesus do? In this situation, what would Jesus do? Now I call myself a Christian. I follow Christ. But here I am ready to condemn this woman for what she's done. So the Holy Spirit dealt with me and I tried to kick against it but I couldn't. I went to the base, to the Sri Lankan base and I got everything. They filled the prescription, gave me everything that she needed and I went to the hospital and gave the doctor everything and she's okay now. She's alive now.

RAS: That's just the physical side.

DW: Yes.

RAS: What happened to her spiritually and what happened to you in the process?

DW: Well, she was given three years in prison. She was sentenced to three years. The spirit of God said go to that prison and offer My salvation to her. I say okay God, I know this is You speaking. So I went the morning that I was to leave. I was leaving at ten o'clock that morning. I got to the prison at seven o'clock. I had a Creole bible in my hand and I had an interpreter with me. And the guard, I told him why were there, he pulled her out of her cell. Now her cell, she had about 40 to 50 inmates, cellmates and they all shared a five-gallon bucket as a toilet. The conditions are horrible. Diseases, it's horrible there. But they pulled her out in the middle of the courtyard, and I stood there with her and the interpreter. And at this time, the male prisoners are coming through to go shower and they're walking by and everybody's watching. The guards are sitting there watching. And I begin to minister to her. And God used me to minister to her and I told her that if she accepted Jesus and repented, that God would take her sins and wash them away and throw them into the sea of forgiveness, never to bring them up again. I said

the people here, your cellmates, the people in this city, the judge, everybody: they're going to remind you of what you did, but God has forgotten that. And at that time I grabbed her hands and we began to pray and I asked her interpreter not to translate the prayer because I knew that the Holy Ghost would. And as we prayed, she began to break down and cry. And my interpreter began to cry and she accepted Jesus right there on the spot, in front of everybody. She accepted Jesus Christ.

RAS: So God's used you in a powerful way.

DW: Yes sir.

RAS: To save a child and a mother.

DW: Yes sir.

RAS: How's that affected your faith and your life?

DW: Well my faith, I have crazy faith.

RAS: I like crazy faith.

DW: I'm crazy when it comes to my faith. My faith level is high and I didn't always have this. I was born and raised in Jacksonville Florida, my parents made me go to church and I wasn't too thrilled about that..

RAS: Those are the heel marks in the driveway, right? Dragging you in.

DW: Oh yeah, I can remember getting up early Sunday mornings and unplugging my mom's alarm clock, hoping we wouldn't have to go to church, you know?

RAS: Never worked, did it?

DW: No, it didn't work. Don't you all try it, either.

RAS: It doesn't work anyway.

DW: But anyway, she made us go and we went. And when I began policing, I moved to Brunswick Georgia where I began my career in law enforcement. And I was sitting there, I was a lieutenant, I was comfortable, everything was going well. I had favor with my chief, the city commissioners, the city manager, the community and God laid my spirit. He said if you want the true blessings I have in store for you, you must leave your comfort zone and step out on faith and follow Me. And I did it. And He sent me to Haiti and when I announced it, everybody thought I was crazy, which I was because I believe in God. But they thought I was crazy because I'm leaving my family, I'm leaving this position with my department, and I'm going to a place that has been known to have witchcraft and voodoo and poverty and all this bad stuff and when I got there, God had everything and everybody set up for me. Everybody. I mean I didn't have to want for anything. And the people received me. They showed me so much love. And I found God while I was there. Amidst all of this trouble, all of the civil unrest that was going on, I found God. And I found Him like I had never found Him before, because here in America and back home, there were so many distractions and so many luxuries that we have but to get there and to see people with nothing, to see people fetching water every day, to see people with no electricity, but to see them in church praising God like it's the last day, like they've lost their mind, it touched me and God ministered to me and He showed me His works while I was there.

RAS: Well DJ God has truly used you. There's no question to save a baby, out of the pit, I mean literally the pit. And then to touch a young girl. She's really just a child.

DW: Yes.

RAS: At 16 years old. And to touch her heart and as a result of giving her that gift, she has such a bright and wonderful future.

DW: Yes sir.

RAS: And she'll make it through that jail. We'll pray for her. We want to pray for you and we want to pray for Christela and for all the other children around the world who are like her, that really struggle today and I would like to invite all of you to join me in prayer. Would you stand right where you are? And let's all join hands together because the Bible tells us that as we join hands and we come together and lay hands on one another and you can interpret that in different ways by joining hands is a form of laying hands. That it brings healing.

DW: Yes.

RAS: So would you please join me in a word of prayer? Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that You are here in this place. That You are touching lives and souls and human beings in miraculous ways. That You don't always choose the brightest, the smartest, the strongest, the prettiest, the tallest; You often choose the least of these. And so You have chosen every single human being here today, for a purpose and for a reason. And we pray, oh Lord, that You'll just continue to bless Christela as she grows into the person that You called her to be. That You'll bless Christela's mother, that she will realize everything that's taking place in her life and that there are people around the world praying for her. And so it is oh Lord that we pray for all the children everywhere, hurting children in this world that You will just raise them up, that You'll send Your angels to protect them, that You'll send men and women just like DJ to go and to rescue them.

DW: Thank You Lord.

RAS: And to bring them Your peace, Your goodness and Your love. And so we thank You for everything Lord and we praise Your name always, Amen.

DW: Amen.

RAS: DJ, thank you.

DW: Thank you sir.

RAS: God loves you and so do we.

DW: Thank you.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER

"Walking in Your Own Shoes – Part V"

RAS: I have met people from South Africa, from India, I go online and I answer the prayers that people ask me to pray for them for and I pray for people. And they come from Korea and China and Russia; I mean they come from all over the globe. So Walking in Your Own Shoes is a message that we need to share with the world. Every page in here is the gospel of Jesus Christ to share with people the hope that they can find when they experience the presence of God's goodness in their lives. And that's what this message is all about because walking in your own shoes isn't simply another how to book for success. Here are seven keys, here's eight keys, here's twelve keys and you do these things and you're going to be a success in life. It's not what the book is about because success isn't a destination, it's a journey. And the success isn't found in doing things that have worked for other people. Success is found in finding and realizing that you are created by God, specifically by Him and that His fingerprint is on every single human life that has ever existed.

I think of a little baby who's been abandoned. And God has created that baby and God's fingerprint is on that baby and God sends His angels to protect and love these babies, even the least of them. God loves them all.

A good friend of mine had a friend of his who had an original Leonardo DaVinci in his house. This gentleman lived in Europe, his great, great, great, great, great grandfather had commissioned Leonardo to paint this portrait, which hangs in his house, and the world has never seen it. He doesn't want the world to know it

exists. So I'm not even going to tell what country he's from. But my friend was in his home, saw it, admired it, loved it, asked him if he could send a painter to come and to copy it so that he could have it in his house. Good idea, you know? So he did. The painter had done just about everything when he got a call and my friend Terry picks up the call and he goes yeah what's up? And he goes I don't know how to duplicate the buttons. Oh, what do you mean? Just paint the buttons. He goes I can get close, but I can't duplicate it. He goes well why not? I can't duplicate it because it is the actual, like first of all, I couldn't figure out how he did it. What kind of brush strokes he did. And I finally figured out how he did it. He actually used his fingers and he put his thumbprints to make the buttons. I just can't duplicate that.

God puts His fingerprint on your life where you are. You know science doesn't create things. What science does is discover things. And what they do is they discover most of what we already know from the Bible and they just reveal it in a different way. For instance, science is telling us today that there are no two human beings the same because we can look at the fingerprints. We can look at the DNA. We can look at the irises and we can know without a question or a doubt that it is specific and unique to every single one of us. And that's science proving that God's fingerprint is on every human being, created for a purpose and for a reason. And so we are called to live by faith not by sight. Vision is carnal, faith is eternal. Vision is physical, faith is spiritual. Vision is weak, faith is strong. Vision is fallible, faith is infallible. Vision can fail you, faith will never fail you. It may require you to do some things that seem really odd and strange to other people, and maybe even seem really strange and awkward to yourself. But when we live by faith, things unfold in ways that we cannot possibly imagine.

Eleven hundred and fifty years before Christ was born, there was a man, now it's in the Bible, you can read it. His name was Gideon. And God called Gideon to defeat the Middionites. The Middionites are these traveling warriors who simply existed by defeating other nations and devouring them. And they were coming to Israel and God called Gideon to face the Middionites. And Gideon looked in the mirror and he looked at God and he said Lord You're calling me? Of all of the tribes of Israel, mine is the least. Of all the families of my tribe, mine is the least. Of all the children in my family, I am the least, and You're calling me? And God called him because God knew that he would follow Him, that he would do what He asked him to do and when I tell you what He asked him to do, you would agree with me, this seems kind of silly that God would even conceive of such a thing. And it's even more incomprehensible that Gideon would do such a thing. Started off with 24,000 troops he had mustered. He had the people of Israel to back him up. And then God said to Gideon, you have too many people. Too many? How can you have too many? He says you have too many. Just tell all the ones who don't want to fight, who are afraid, to go home. So 22,000 left. He's left with 2,000. And God looks at the 2,000 troops he has left and He goes do you know what? You have too many. Too many, I only have 2,000! Are you nuts? You have too many. He says here's what I want you to do. I want you to march them through the deserts and when you get to this stream, those who fall face down in the stream, tell them to go. Those who kneel by the stream and take their hand and cup it and drink out of their hand, they stay. Three hundred are left. That's it. Three hundred. And with three hundred people, three hundred men, Gideon led them into battle, they never picked up a sword, they never struck down a Middionite, the Middionites turn on each other and defeated themselves. And all they did was chase the Middionites out of Israel and they left. Only God

could do such a thing. And God chooses people of faith because God knows that people of faith will do what He asks them to do.

And what does God ask you to do today? He asks you to walk in your own shoes. Not in somebody else's shoes. He wants you to do what you've been called to do and not what somebody else has been called to do. He asks you first and foremost above everything else, to live by faith, which simply means you follow Jesus. Jesus said, "Follow Me." And that's what He asks us to do, to follow Him. Follow Me and I'll make you fishers of men. DJ experienced that didn't he. He became a fisher of men. And in 1863, July 1863, the Civil War was in full bloom. The battle of Gettysburg took place in July and there were thousands of union and confederate soldiers strewn over those fields. The cemetery was designed and commissioned by David Wells, who was an attorney, who has been contracted by the governor and the plans to dedicate the cemetery were set for September 23rd. They wanted a specific orator, well known for his skills to come and give the dedication speech. So they invited Edward Everett. Everett served the United States as secretary of state, both the senate and a member of the US House of Representatives, he was a former minister to Britain, he was America's first PhD. He was governor of Massachusetts and president of Harvard University. And he was recognized as the number one orator of the world at that time. He was asked to give the address September 23rd for the dedication but he couldn't do it. He said he doesn't have enough time to prepare for it so the earliest he would be able to do it would be November 19th. So they moved the date to November 19th, just so he'd have enough time to write his message. I would like to have three months to prepare each message I deliver, too. So they changed the date so he could have time to write his message. So he did. He wrote 13,607 words. His message was over 2 hours long. His opening sentence was "standing beneath at the serene sky, overlooking these broad fields, now reposed from the labors of the waning years," and he went on for two hours. Has anyone here read his message? One person has? Oh interesting. I've never read his message.

That same day with only a week's notice, the president of the United States was asked to speak. It was a last minute thought, thinking he might come. He wrote 250 words. Two minutes long. And he said "Fore score and seven years ago, our father's brought forth on this continent a new nation. Conceived of liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we're engaged in a great Civil War, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are men on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that this nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men living and dead who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here. But it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living rather than to be dedicated here, to the unfinished work, which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion. That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain. That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from this earth." And Abraham Lincoln sat down. He made one mistake. He said the world would not remember and we do. Remember those words because they touch the very heart of our nation and our soul.

God calls us all. He doesn't call the best, the prettiest, the smartest, He doesn't call those who are exceptional in all of their fields, He calls every single human being on planet earth to fulfill the calling that He has given to them. Follow Me, He says, and I'll make you fishers of men. And how do you become a fisher of men? Well, one of the things you can do is simply bring somebody to church next Sunday. You know that sounds like an easy trite thing but you have absolutely no idea what depth and power that can have in a humans life. You all know somebody who needs to be here who isn't here. You all know someone who will come if you asked them. And I promise you, if you ask five people one of them will say yes. And furthermore, I would dare to bet you that would be the one you least expect to say yes. It almost always turns out that way. So there's reasons to bring people to church and there's a reason to bring people to church that might get their attention and they may come and in so doing, you can fulfill the great commission that Christ has given to us. You know the great commission is found in Mark and it concludes with these words, "And the Lord worked with them." Isn't that beautiful? And the Lord worked with them. And that's what happens with us. We don't do it on our own, but the Lord works with us.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that You're in process in this very moment of working with us. Help us to realize that with You, we can do all things. That through faith we find strength, through faith we find the ability to do the intangible, through faith we have the ability to move mountains, that through faith the infallible takes place. With faith we'll never fail. And so we thank You for what You're doing in our lives, for Your love and for everything. We love You Lord, Amen.

HYMN - "Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

BENEDICTION - RAS

RAS: Now may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always and forever, Amen.