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HOURLY OF POWER OF 09.03.2008

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RAS: Good morning. And welcome to the Crystal Cathedral. It is a wonderful day because we have been chosen by God to be here. And today that Holy Spirit of God is going to use you to love others so reach out right now and shake the hands of those who are standing behind you and next to you and around you and say God loves you and I do, too.

Today it gives me a great honor to welcome to the Crystal Cathedral 22 delegates from the Hour of Power offices from around the world. We have the director of our international ministries, John Townend with us, and so we appreciate all that they do and their dedication to this ministry, so would you please give them a very warm welcome and a thank you for bringing the Hour of Power to the world, literally to the world.

And with that let me give a little prayer. Dear heavenly father we thank You for the privilege we have to be here in this place in Your house and in Your presence. For we are in the presence of saints; three thousand saints You have gathered together here today. And so we thank You that we're one of them called by You, used by You. So continue to use us oh Lord in Your way as we praise and worship You, Amen.

HYMN - "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less/Trusting Jesus"

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His love, support me in the whelming flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand. Trusting Jesus every day, trusting through my daily way; Even when my faith is small, trusting Jesus - that is all. Trusting as the moments fly, trusting as the days go by, trusting Him whatever befall, trusting Jesus - that is all.

Brightly does His Spirit shine into this small heart of mine; With His strength I cannot fall, trusting Jesus - that is all.

Trusting as the moments fly, trusting as the days go by, trusting Him whatever befall, trusting Jesus - that is all, is.

SCRIPTURE – Psalms 61 - RHS

RAS: Please be seated.

RHS: In a few moments we will be presenting our morning gifts, tithes and offerings to God and as we prepare our hearts for this act of worship hear these words of encouragement from the book of Psalms.

Hear my cry oh Lord! Listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to You. My heart is overwhelmed. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I for You have been a shelter to me, oh God. I will abide in Your tabernacle forever. I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. For You have heard my vows oh God. You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name. My soul, finds rest in God above. My salvation comes from Him. He alone is my rock and my salvation. He is my fortress. I will never be shaken. Trust in Him at all times, oh

people. Pour out your hearts to Him for God is our refuge. One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard. That You, oh God, are strong and that You, oh Lord, are loving. Surely You will reward each person according to what he has done. This is the word of the Lord.

Now as the ushers come forward, prayerfully listen to these words as the choir reminds us that our God, our Shepherd supplies all our need. Therefore you don't have to worry and you can freely give back to Him what He has given to you. Amen.

ANTHEM - "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Thy hand has always blessed me; Thou has brought me to this place. And I know Thy hand still leads me, safely home by Thy good grace. Prone to wander Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, bought me with His precious blood. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter; bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above, seal it for Thy courts above.

INTRODUCTION TO GUEST - RAS

RAS: Well I have the opportunity this morning to introduce a gentleman by the name of Morris Robinson. You're going to remember him, he makes a big impression and the name of his song or the name of his CD is entitled "Going Home" and he is living proof that sports and art can indeed mix. In college he was a two time all American offensive lineman. And today this Atlanta native is a professional opera singer who has performed at the Boston Lyric Opera, Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Opera. As Morris's career has continued to flourish, he has never forgotten his roots in the church and the profound joy of singing Negro spirituals that deeply reinforce his faith. His first CD entitled "Going Home" reflects his desire to give back to the one who created him, Jesus Christ. Please give Morris Robinson a warm Crystal Cathedral welcome as he comes to sing the title song from his album, "Going Home."

SOLO – MORRIS ROBINSON – "Going Home"

Going home, going home, Lord, I'm going home. Going home, going home, Lord, I'm going home. No more trials, no more cares, no more grief to bear. All the folks we once knew waiting over there. To the light, we shall go. All is peaceful there. Going home, going home. I'm going home.

Going home, going home, Lord, I'm going home. Going home, going home, Lord, I'm going home. No more trials, no more cares, no more grief to bear. All the

folks we once knew waiting over there. To the light, we shall go. All is peaceful there. Going home, going home I'm going home, home, going home!

INTERVIEW – MORRIS ROBINSON

RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER MR: MORRIS ROBINSON

RHS: All God's people said Wow! Man, and the music of that Negro Spiritual by Dvorak.

MR: Yes.

RHS: That's an interesting collection and they..

MR: Sure.

RHS: ..work wonderful together.

MR: Yes.

RHS: I'm so happy to have you. We were looking forward to you a few months ago and you got snowed in.

MR: Yeah.

RHS: New York, right?

MR: In New York, yes sir.

RHS: You know, I look at you and I look like I'm looking at a super, super star. I've known a lot of celebrities as friends, but I look at you with awe.

MR: Oh, thank you so much.

RHS: Oh with awe. Who were the people that made you what you are?

MR: Well I draw a lot of influence from my spiritual upbringing in the church. My dad is a Baptist minister, my grandfather is a Baptist minister and my mother raised us in the church. She passed on a few years ago, but one of the things that she left with us is that nurturing and growing up in the church home. So, I try to carry that with me wherever I go and my mother always had a song. No matter what happened she was singing all the time and so all of her kids took it with them. So I am very glad to be doing what I'm doing, very blessed and fortunate.

RHS: You are multiple talented. So I mean everyone will think you've been a singer all your life, probably so, but you where big time in the football. Where did you go to college? I know the answer but I want you to tell them.

MR: I went to the Citadel Military Academy in South Carolina.

RHS: Oh, and where did you and when did you get into football?

MR: Football I started early in high school. It's a funny story. I was in the band, the marching band and I realized that I couldn't.. I don't think this is a happy ending for you guys, but. I was in the marching band and I went to the first football game and realized that I couldn't do both so I quit the band and joined the chorus.

RHS: What did you play? What did you play?

MR: I was a baritone horn player. I played the drums growing up in church, but I was a baritone horn player in the band and I had to quit the band and join the chorus in order to play football. So singing allowed me to play football. So it's kind of a twisted story there, but there in lies my fate so.

RHS: How did you get from football to Metropolitan Opera in New York City and star performer for two weeks here in Orange County?

MR: Right.

RHS: ..the opera, what's it Mozart?

MR: I'm doing Mozart's magic flute here with Opera Pacific here at the performing arts center here in Orange County.

RHS: Tickets are still available?

MR: Tickets are available, sure.

RHS: Wonderful! So but how did you make that break?

MR: Well I think that, you know, God has blessed me obviously with some talent and my ability to focus and remain disciplined on the football field just carried over into the music world. I came into this completely green without a degree, a background in music, but just relying on my natural God given ability and working hard and trying to stay focused and disciplined to develop it so.

RHS: And believing in your dreams!

MR: Absolutely, yeah!

RHS: When you were growing up, was this your dream? Singing in the opera? Or playing football or marching in the band or playing the big pipe organ here at the church?

MR: Well I always wanted to play football. In fact I'm still a big fan of college and professional football, but you know as I said before football left me; I didn't leave football. I didn't get drafted into the pros. But I always, I grew up in a musical family as well so I was always singing as a young kid. You know I was always involved with the music and I was always involved with gospel music. And when presented with the opportunity finally to make a CD I wanted to make sure rather than do what I do on a daily basis in singing Mozart and Verdi and Puccini and Strauss I wanted to make sure that I sang something for the Lord because He gave me the talent.

RHS: So that's why your first CD is all Christian.

MR: Absolutely, yes sir.

RHS: That's very unusual. Wow.

MR: Yeah.

RHS: Just your voice, say hello.

MR: Hello.

RHS: Can you whisper?

MR: Not very well.

RHS: Are you a tenor or a baritone or a low bass?

MR: Well I'm considered a bass.

RHS: You know I sang in the college male quartet and I sang low bass.

MR: Wow!

RHS: I was pretty good.

MR: That's pretty good.

RHS: Came to California and I fell in love with the place.

MR: How about that?

RHS: Now you have.. tell them about your family. You have a wife?

MR: I have a wife and a two-year-old son and he's got the singing bug already. He walks around and sings all the time. He's loud and out of key, but at least it's loud. We can train it to be pretty later. But that's my family and my career unfortunately makes me stay away from home a lot and I'd like to, you know, obviously I want to be there to help raise my son and be around him. But they get to travel out and visit me so it kind of works out great. And he gets to be exposed to a lot of beautiful music at an early age.

RHS: We opened this building in September of 1980 so we finished 27 years here.

MR: Wow.

RHS: We have had world star performers here. The first one was Beverly Sills.

MR: Wow.

RHS: And we've had them here, but I have to say this building is long; it's a hundred and fourteen feet longer than a football field. A football field is three

hundred feet. This is four hundred and fourteen. It's a hundred and twenty feet to the ceiling and I have to say publicly never has this auditorium been filled by a soloist like it is this morning.

MR: Thank you very much, thank you, thank you.

RHS: Sing for us.

MR: I will.

SOLO – MORRIS ROBINSON – “Lord, I Want to be a Christian in My Heart”

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart. In my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart. In my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. In my heart, in my heart. Lord, I want to be like Jesus, Lord, I want to be more holy,

Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart.

RAS THANK YOU TO MORRIS ROBINSON

RAS: Morris, thank you.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER

"Believe It! See It! – Part 3"

RAS: Well this morning, I want to share a few stories with you and share a few things that I think can help you through very tough times in life because one of the things I've recognized as I read through the bible is that Jesus comes into people's lives when they need it the most. He does. Consistently touches people's lives when they need it the most. I've been going through Matthew, actually for the past few weeks. I haven't even told you that. But we have been and one of the things that takes place in Matthew is very early in Christ' ministry, is He hops in a boat and He decides to take a boat ride to the other side of the lake. A very uneventful thing. Beautiful day. His apostles, fishermen, men who were raised on that lake; they started fishing when they were boys. Their father would put them in their boats with them and they would go out and fish. They fished several days a week their entire life! And they couldn't predict what was going to happen because events are unpredictable. And they climbed into that boat and as they were heading across the sea, suddenly the winds came howling through the valleys, which is very common there. It's not uncommon at all. The Sea of Galilee is six hundred feet below sea level. As a result of that, that has a way of bringing those winds in and the storm came up.

Interesting thought: the Greek word for storm is seismos and we know that word today. We know the English derivative is seismic or a seismograph and it means something that's going to shake and hit hard. And that's exactly what was taking place. The winds were coming, the storm came and these men who left that seashore full of confidence. I mean they were confident that hey this is a nice little boat ride across the sea. We've been across the sea a million times, this is just another walk in the park; all of a sudden riddled with fear. Riddled because the storm had come up. And they came to Jesus and they woke Him up. And Jesus stood up and He raised His arms and He said, "Peace be still." And the winds and the waves obeyed Him. And He looked at the apostles and He said, "Oh ye of little faith. Why are you so afraid?"

Victor Hugo, the author of the classic book entitled, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* wrote another story that people aren't as familiar with, its entitled *Ninety-Three*. And in this story, it's a story of ship that takes place in the 19th century so it's a tall ship. And this ship is caught in a storm and it's manned by very seasoned sailors and they weren't too concerned about the storm even though it was fierce and it was ferocious. They never the less knew how to handle this. They'd been in storms before. But what made their fear arise suddenly was the sudden and dramatic noise they heard under deck. They heard this crash. And when they heard it take place they realized what had taken place. A cannon had broken loose and this thousand pound sphere was slamming against the sides of the hull and as the ship would be tossed back and forth so this cannon would slide slamming the insides of this hull. And they knew that their greatest danger was not the storm without, but the storm within. And two brave men had to go down into the hull, under the interior of the ship and secure the cannon or they would all perish.

And today when we look at the accounts that took place in the life of Christ with these apostles, we suddenly realize that the unexpected events that take place in our lives can often be handled from without. But it's the ones within that takes their toll and becomes the dangers within us because we have to realize that even though events are predictable, emotions are undependable.

As the apostles left the shore with conviction and confidence and no worries really at all, suddenly all of those worries turned to tremendous fear. "Oh ye of little faith. Why are you so afraid?" Said Jesus. And here these confident men suddenly were men full of fear. And how often don't our emotions like a roller coaster slide up and down from the heights to the depths? Especially when we receive these unpredictable events, these storms that slam into our lives. You have cancer. Your son was killed in a traffic accident last night. The words 'I want a divorce.' The words 'you're not going to make it. You're going to have to file bankruptcy.' The shifting of unpredictable economic times, the shifting unpredictable political environment in which we live all helps generate emotions within us that are just undependable. And like the cannon within, our emotions have that ability to tear us apart. But then we have to realize something: Jesus is there.

Like the apostles taking the trip across the sea, they're in a boat and this boat had a special visitor on it. It wasn't a seasoned sailor, it was a carpenter. It wasn't an individual who knew how to deal with the nautical situations. But He knew how to deal with the heart and He knew how to control the winds and the waves and He stood up and He said, "Peace be still!" And the waves died down and the winds were calm and there was peace. Events are unpredictable. Emotions are undependable, but enthusiasm is undepletable. Enthusiasm, *Entheos*: God in you! That's what enthusiasm is all about. The Greek words are *Entheos*: in God. And when God comes into our hearts and fills that void within, it is literally, absolutely undepletable. You have to realize that Jesus was there in the beginning with God. And Jesus was with God when the voice was spoken, in fact He is the voice. In the beginning was the word and the word was God and God spoke and the heavens were created above and below and He created the seas and He created the winds. And for Jesus to speak and control the winds and the waves is nothing. After all He created them. And He's in the boat with us. He's living life with us and together as we cross through the seas and go through life, He is there to help us through the toughest of times. All we need to do is call out to Jesus and He'll come. And He'll help us through. Enthusiasm is undepletable.

Do people under the age of thirty know a guy by the name of the Lone Ranger? Is that something that anyone under the age of thirty knows? Is there anyone under the age of thirty who has ever heard of the Lone Ranger and Tonto? Oh good, there's one person under the age of thirty who's heard that. Well maybe a couple more. Oh good. Well for those of you who don't know, because I know there are lots of young people I'm talking about who have never heard of the Lone Ranger and Tonto. The Lone Ranger was this crazy cowboy guy with a mask who would run around saving everybody and he had his sidekick and Indian that went with him. And the sidekick is named Tonto. It was an old TV show, black and white, no color. Can you believe that? And I'm old enough to remember that. Well Tonto and the Lone Ranger are setting up tent for the night and they do and they camp down and about, oh I don't know, several hours later Tonto wakes up the Lone Ranger and says, "Kimosabi" that was his nickname for the Lone Ranger. It's the same guy, okay? He says, "Kimosabi," he goes "look up tell me what you see." The Lone Ranger looks up and he sees just this beautiful night sky. He says "I see a billion stars." And he says "Kimosabi what does that mean?" He said "Oh it means the handy work of God is alive and real. It means that astrologically there are billions of galaxies and stars. Meteorologically it means we are going to have a beautiful day tomorrow and it says it's about three fifteen at night. Oh" and he goes "Kimosabi, I think you as dumb as a buffalo. It means our tent is stolen." When we stop and we realize that events are unpredictable, and that as a result of outside circumstances taking place in our lives, that our emotions will be undependable and they will slide up and down the scale from a high of ten to a low of one. There will be times in our life where we just don't think we want to live another day. That in it all God is there. That He's inside making the reality of His goodness easy to understand and real. His eternity is understandable. It's not confusing, it doesn't require higher mathematics to understand what Jesus Christ is all about and what the gospel of Jesus Christ is all about. It simply requires a heart. A heart that's humble enough to call upon Jesus. And as the apostles called upon Jesus He stood and He said "Peace be still."

A few years ago a dear friend of mine gave me a plaque. A brass plaque and this is the plaque he gave me, 46:10. Can you all see that? 46:10? He gave this to me because these numbers represent something to him that saved his life. He was going through a very difficult time and he went up on top of a mountain with a friend of his and he started praying. He says as we started to pray all of the sudden the winds started to howl and the more we prayed the wind grew some more and we could hear the clouds started to gather. He said it was one of those divine moments and when we said amen the winds completely died down. It was a turning point in my life. I said well what do the numbers mean? He says its Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." Be still.

Allow your hearts to be still. And to know that the love of God surpasses all understanding, will come into your heart and into your mind and He'll bring peace and He'll bring understanding. That no matter what you're going through, no matter what struggles you find yourself with today that God is there with you. Entheos: enthusiasm and there is a plentiful supply to supply all of your needs and there is nothing that can separate you from the love of God. Nothing.

And so this morning if you wish to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior, if you've never been baptized and want to be baptized this morning, after the service, after the benediction I'm going to come and stand in front of the fountains here and I'll baptize you. So I want to invite you to come forward and receive the baptism of water and to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. Jesus stood up in the boat and He said "Oh ye of little faith. Why are you so afraid?"

We have nothing to fear but fear it self and today we come before Jesus and we say Jesus help us with our emotions. Help us overcome the struggles that we face today. Help to fill that void within our heart that rattles around like a cannon in a ship and help us to realize that with You we can overcome even the most difficult of circumstances.

So pray with me, will you? Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the opportunity that we have to come to You today to say yes to Your love. To recall upon You and You will come and You will calm the storms in our hearts. And so in faith we stand today with the full understanding that eternity is before us and that with You we cannot fail. And so we love You Lord and we thank You and praise Your name always and forever, Amen.

ANTHEM – “My Shepherd will Supply My Need“

My Shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is His name. In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream. He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake His ways. And leads me for His mercy’s sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, Your presence is my stay. One word of Your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread. My cup with blessings over flows, Your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all of my day’s. O may Your house be my abode and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest while others go and come. No more a stranger nor a guest, but like a child at home. No more a stranger, nor a guest but like a child at home, but like a child at home, no more a stranger nor a guest, but like a child at home, at home.

BENEDICTION - RAS

RAS: And now may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, fill your hearts and your souls with the peace of Jesus Christ. That the turbulence that lives within and without might create calm and peace forever and always, Amen.