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## HOUR OF POWER OF 18.05.2008

### PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: Incredible teenagers Alex and Brett Harris are impacting America with their initiative, Do Hard Things.

ALEX: Brett and I wouldn't be doing hard things, we wouldn't be encouraging other people to do hard things if we didn't have a gospel shaped, Bible driven view of the world.

VO: Then, the wonderful voice of Christian Ebner.

CHRISTIAN: (SINGING) Got to remember I'm not here for long! I'm just living in my temporary home.

VO: Then, are you struggling with confidence during this national recession? Dr. Robert Schuller holds the keys for your success.

RHS: When faced with a mountain I will not quit. I will keep on striving until I climb over, find a pass through, tunnel underneath or simply stay and turn the mountain into a gold mine, with God's help.

VO: Join us today for the best hour on television, the Hour of Power with Robert Schuller.

### 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: You know, Jesus has told us where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I'll be also. And so He's here today. He's here to touch hearts and minds with the reality of the positive message of His grace and His goodness to care, to lead, to wrap His arms around us and to lift us out of any challenges we might face. And so that's a truth and that's a reality. And we're here today and as a result of being gathered here today, we're going to leave this place as better, stronger people.

And so I want to allow you right now to allow the Holy Spirit of God as He flows through you, to flow through you as you welcome those who are standing next to you and behind you. Would you please reach out and tell those who are standing around you that God loves you and I do, too. God loves you Alex, God loves you Brett, and I do, too.

Dear Heavenly Father we thank You for the opportunity we have to be here, to feel Your spirit, to be encouraged and uplifted by You. And so as we continue to worship You, may our minds have the transforming power of renewal and joy and hope and satisfaction in You. We love You Lord, Amen.

### HYMN - "Medley – Challenge/Take My Life/Spirit of the Living God"

Challenge us, O God, our Father, move within our lives today;

Cultivate a sense of mission in our hearts and minds we pray. Help us to renew commitment to a way of life in You which interprets for all people how Your truth will make them new.

Take my life and make it new, let me walk, O Lord, with You. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Your love, at the impulse of Your love.

Take my lips and let them share Your great love and boundless care. Take myself and I will do all things, only, all for You, all things, only, all for You.

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

#### SCRIPTURE – Romans 12 - RAS

RAS: Please be seated. Today I'm going to read some verses from Romans 12 which is a letter that Paul wrote to the church in Rome. And so these words are for us, listen to them.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is. His good pleasing and perfect will. We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving let him serve. If it is teaching let him teach. If it is encouraging let him encourage. If it is contributing to the needs of others let him give generously. If it is leadership let him govern diligently. If it is showing mercy let him do it cheerfully.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil, cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves, never be lacking in zeal but keep your spiritual fervor serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope. Patient in affliction. Faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Live in harmony with one another. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

#### ANTHEM - "Eternal Life"

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek. To be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; It is in dying that we are born to eternal life!

#### RAS THANK YOU TO DON & CHOIR

RAS: A dear friend of mine passed away this year. He was a well-known man, more known actually for his business than for himself. He started Carl's Jr. hamburgers. He was the founder of Carl's Jr. Hamburgers, his name was Carl Karcher. And he passed away this year; he was a wonderful man. And one of the things I loved about his is anytime he met somebody for the first time, he'd hand them two things: some of you are laughing because you know what he'd hand them, he hand them first of all a certificate so they could get a free hamburger, so he made an instant friend. And the second thing he handed them was a copy of the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. Those are the words we sang today and every time I hear those words I think of that wonderful, beautiful saint of a man, Carl Karcher. And so I thank you choir, for sharing those words with us today and for doing it in such a beautiful tone and beautiful harmonies.

And Don, are you still there Don? You just got back from China!

DN: Yes, that's right, China. Took the UCLA choir on tour to China over the Easter break, Spring break and had a wonderful time. The concerts were all sold out, standing room only and great ovations after each one. It was a musical success, but the thing we brought back with us most deeply was the fact that the Chinese people gave us such sincere and genuine kindness and love; Their university students to our students, their faculty to us and then just the citizens. Everywhere we went they obviously knew we were from UCLA because that was made known but they were so kind. Just the general population that our students came back with a very new warmth in their hearts for Chinese people. And I'm so proud of this church for what's going to happen here in extending ourselves in the next weeks, months and years to help Chinese people. But I also want to close this little segment with saying how proud I was of the UCLA one hundred singers. They handled themselves beautifully with dignity, with polite manners, with a positive spirit and real professionalism every hour of every day on that tour. And the United States and UCLA can both be very, very proud that they were represented well by these UCLA students. Thank you.

RAS: Thank you, Don.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT – CHINA INITIATIVES - RAS

RAS: While we're talking about China I have to tell you that we are truly committed as a church to help this country. They have severe poverty. Once you get outside the major cities and the rural areas of China, you find hundreds of millions of people who live on less than a dollar a day. Can you imagine trying to live on a dollar a day? And so it is a country that this church has been called to by God to extend and to reach and to tap for the kingdom of God. I know this for a fact. It is what we as congregation must do. It's not an option, it's something that we have been called by God to do. It is a calling that started a hundred years ago with my uncle, my great uncle, my father's uncle who came as a missionary from China. When my father was only five years old and rubbed his head and said you're going to be a preacher when you grow up. And it was a call that my father received from God himself.

And then it continued when I went to China the very first year it was opened to the western world, seventy-eight, and seventy-nine. And I went there and there wasn't another single face that I saw that wasn't Chinese and every time I talked with people who followed me around, they committed their lives to Jesus Christ. And so from that moment to this day I have known without question or pause that we have been called as a congregation to reach China and we are doing that in starting this campaign this year to reach the continent of China with the good news of Jesus Christ and we can do it. We can do it. We are faced with enormous obstacles, there are many challenges we have to overcome, but together we can overcome anything with the power of God and we can do this. We can do it. We're going to start by reaching them humanitarily. Reaching them where they need to be lifted and helped and encouraged. And we're going to do it as one tiny little step at a time and we will continue to bring the good news of Jesus Christ.

Currently we are reaching a hundred and eighty million people in China. But to give you an idea of how vast that population is, this is just a little more than ten percent of the entire country. But we are going to eventually reach the entire country with Jesus Christ, the gospel, and the Hour of Power and sharing with them the possibilities that they can have as an individual. And so that's what we're going to do. And while our offerings are being collected, Christian Ebner is

going to sing a reflective song for us as far an opportunity for us to worship and then immediately following that, we'll move into a time of prayer.

SOLO – CHRISTIAN EBNER – “Search Me, O God”

Search me, search me, O God, and know my heart. Search me, search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxieties; See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way, lead me in the way everlasting, everlasting.

Oh search me, search me, O God, and know my heart. Search me, search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxieties; See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way, lead me in the way everlasting, everlasting.

You will show me the path of life. In Your presence is fullness of joy. At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore, forevermore.

Search me, search me, O God, and know my heart. Search me, search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxieties; See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way, lead me in the way everlasting, everlasting. Oh, search me, search me, O God.

PRAYER – RAS

RAS: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that we have the freedoms we do today, to come into this house and to worship and pray. That we have the freedom to be able to give and the freedom to express ourselves in a truth action. And so as we have given, may these gifts produce fruit around the world. So use these gifts to reach out and touch hurting hearts today. We thank You Lord, Amen.

INTERVIEW – HARRIS TWINS

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RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER

ALEX: ALEX HARRIS

BRETT: BRETT HARRIS

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RAS: So we're very excited about what God is doing. And today, I want to introduce you to two young men who have been using their gifts in a tremendous way. They're twin brothers, Alex and Brett Harris. And they have traveled all over the country encouraging teens to join what they're calling the Reblution, and to do some hard things. And so would you please take a look at this video:

(VIDEO ROLL IN)

ALEX: The Reblution Conference is an exciting one-day event where teens and their parents come together to learn more about the ideas behind the Reblution, the Biblical foundation and their practical outworking in life. It's a time to come together to worship God, to be equipped with life changing resources and really to make friends, to make those connections that will stick with you for the rest of your life.

BRETT: Who would have thought 2000 teens and their parents would show up to be challenged to do hard things. We have public, private and home school students here. We have parents from a wide variety of backgrounds, and it's just exciting to see that Do Hard Things is an idea that just crosses all boundaries. It applies to you if you're doing what's hard for you, and that's the key to growth.

ALEX: To make a change in your life requires you to make some changes in your life. You have to actually take the initiative to do things differently. If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got. We really encourage people to really take action. Do Hard Things is a mind set but it's a mindset that leads to action. That's what makes it so powerful.

BRETT: If that kind of change happens in one life, in just a handful of lives that would be a successful conference.

ALEX: And so we encourage people to take these ideas, to recognize the low expectations, to rebel against them by actually going out and living a radical life for Christ.

(END OF VIDEO ROLL IN)

RAS: The Rebelution with Brett and Alex Harris. Would you please welcome them to the Crystal Cathedral? Alex, Brett, boy we're glad you're doing what you're doing.

ALEX: Oh thank you.

RAS: It sounds really exciting. So you've coined this new word, Rebelution, right?

ALEX: Yes.

RAS: Tell us about what that word means?

ALEX: Well the official definition of the Rebelution is a teenage rebellion against low expectations. Because when you look around the world today, the expectations for young people today are just incredibly low. They're not expected to do anything that's wise or good, and in fact we're expected to do the exact opposite. So Brett and I, we're 19, we're teens ourselves, started this when we were 16 in 2005. And the message of the Rebelution is calling young people to really rebel against rebellion. The theme verse of..

RAS: I like that.. rebel against rebellion.

ALEX: ..yes. The theme verse of the Rebelution is actually 1st Timothy 4, verse 12, which says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you're young but set the believers an example in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." So while this world will look down on us because we're young, God actually calls us to be exemplary and the world doesn't expect much of these years. God expects great things from these years of our lives.

RAS: So teens have a lot of freedom today. In fact more than normal; That is part of the technological advances gives us that freedom. You have a challenge to teens today, don't you?

BRETT: Well our challenge really is that young people today face, you know, they have greater opportunities and more freedom than ever before, but they also have a great possibility to waste the most important years of their life. So you look at teens, we have strengths. You know the Bible says, "The glory of youth is their strength. And you know we have energy, we have flexibility, we're creative, we're passionate, you know we're too young to know that certain things are impossible so we do them anyway. But you add to that the fact that we have technology, you know, more technology than ever before, you know more opportunities, more support, more information, but so many young people today have bought into the lie that the teen years are a vacation from responsibility, a time to goof off and have fun. So what we believe is that teens face the greatest opportunities and the greatest distractions of history.

RAS: How do kids waste their time today?

ALEX: It's really any number of ways. I mean everyone knows, you know, the common ones. You think off the top of your head oh video games, and you know relationships and you know all these different things, you know

watching TV, being on the computer, texting away, and all those things are part of it. But technology really gives us tools and the question is whether you're using them as tools or as toys. And if you're using them as tools with purpose, they can be a good thing. If you're using them as toys, they distract you from the purpose of the teen years, that's when they become a bad thing.

RAS: So the idea is to get them to use some of these things in a productive way?

BRETT: Well the real message is that the teen years are a launching pad of life.

RAS: Yes.

BRETT: That they provide us with, you know really unprecedented opportunities to prepare, to gain momentum, to gain skills, you know flexibility, time that we're not going to have you know at any other point in our lives. Life just keeps getting you know faster and faster, responsibilities, obligations and this is really a pivotal time and so for us, the message is look at how you're spending your time. There's plenty of things that young people do, you know, any of the things Alex mentioned, they're not wrong. We do them. We enjoy them, but the point is that what's the purpose of these years, what's the purpose of these activities, are they preparing you or are they distracting you so you're going to wake up, you know, after college and say I'm not ready for life. You know, I haven't prepared, I haven't gained any of the relational skills, I mean of the, you know, the skills I would need to hold down a job, to have a life that is pleasing to God.

ALEX: Let me jump in really quick there because not only are we saying that, you know, you can either be preparing. We really believe with all our hearts that the teen years are an incredible opportunity for young people to do great things for God. They have the ability to do that. And one of the things that I would like to share as well is that you know the Bible says "the glory of youth is their strength" and it says, "the glory of the old is their wisdom." And a lot of times, young people have a lot of energy and a lot of strength and they don't know what to do with it. Where as sometimes, you know, older people, they have a lot of insight, they have a lot of wisdom and experience, but they don't necessarily have the time, the energy, the strength to actually see it happen. And so our vision is to see strength united with wisdom, the younger generation with the older generation, in partnership and that's when incredible things can happen for the glory of God.

RAS: When you say this, the first thing that comes to my mind is then the two of you need to be examples of what you're professing. Would you agree with that statement?

ALEX: Absolutely.

BRETT: Absolutely.

RAS: And if that's the case, I think it begins by a profession of your faith. What does Jesus mean to you and how is this had an impact in your lives?

ALEX: Well I think I can answer at least for myself..

BRETT: For both of us.

ALEX: ..for both of us, that our relationship with Jesus Christ really defines everything we do. It's the reason why we're doing what we're doing because ultimately, you know, anybody can benefit from Doing Hard Things, that take them outside their comfort zone, whether they believe in God or not. That's just because that's the way God's made us as human beings. But at the same time, Brett and I wouldn't be doing hard things, we wouldn't be encouraging other people to do hard things if we didn't have a gospel shaped, Bible driven view of

the world. And the reason why that is is because you know bringing the Reblution into it, is that the gospel, you know, the mark of genuine transformation, the mark of transformation in our lives, that what we look for is are we willing to do what's right, is to do what we know pleases God even when it costs us something. Even when we know it won't please other people, even when it's very, very hard. Because if you're not willing to do that, you might just be, you know fitting in to the environment you're in. You might be acting like a Christian as a young person, not because you really believe God exists, that He hears your prayers and that the Bible is His word, but because your mom's going to ask you if you read your Bible and because other people are listening to you pray, and because it would be harder for you to really live for what you really care about, and it would be to pretend like you're a Christian. And so for us it's really looking for that genuine transformation of doing what's right, even when it's hard, to do hard things and if we're not doing hard things personally, we know we're not in the right place in our own life.

RAS: So when you say you're doing hard things, its making the right choices, is that it?

BRETT: Well it covers all areas of life. You know for us it ranges from the smallest things, you know, like keeping our rooms clean. We're not really good at that, but you know it can start from there..

RAS: I'm really glad you're being honest.

BRETT: ..but it goes all the way up to, you know, in our book, you know, we share the stories of young people, 15-year-olds who are fighting modern day slavery; Groups of guys who have raised \$20,000 in the last year to dig wells in Africa. You know, provided water for over 20,000 people. And we tell stories of girls in our hometown of Portland who are reaching out to the homeless with the gospel as well as just meeting their physical needs. And these are stories of young people making more of a difference than some people make in their entire lives, and they're starting as teens and what's most exciting is that they're starting as teens, but it's the launching pad. This is not the, you know, the finish line, this is the launching pad. You look throughout history, you look throughout, you know, God's word and you see how God raised up young people, as young people to prepare them for even greater things later in their lives. And you look at George Washington. He was the commander in chief of the Virginia militia at 23, twenty years later; he was the commander and chief of the entire continental army. You know Alexander Hamilton, he was a clerk in accounting house at 13, twenty years later he was the first secretary of the treasury at 33. So these are principles that are true, you know, throughout history. Our goal is to hopefully reintroduce, you know, bring our generation back to what's always been true, not to come up with something new. But these are things that have always been true because it's the way God made us to work.

RAS: So you're currently 19, you'll be 20 in..

ALEX: October.

BRETT: End of October.

RAS: ..October. So you're going to be old in a few months. And I know that you've got a lot to do before you turn twenty, but I want to thank both of you for coming here and sharing with us a wonderful book, Do Hard Things, putting forth and making a tremendous statement for the kingdom of God. Alex..

ALEX: Thank you.

RAS: ..Brett thank you for all you're doing. God loves you and so do we.

ALEX: Thank you.

BRIEF INTERVIEW – CHRISTIAN EBNER

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RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER      CE: CHRISTIAN EBNER

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RAS: So Christian, you sang a wonderful song for us this morning. Would you mind telling us what that song means to you?

CE: Well its right from the scripture. It's from Psalm 139 and its search me oh God, and know my heart. Try me and know my anxieties and see if there's any wicked way in me. Lead me in the way everlasting. It's should be our prayer every day for those who love the Lord.

RAS: And you have a tremendous intimacy with God; A beautiful relationship with Him. How did you come to know Him?

CE: Wow, I grew up in the church and it's kind of a long story. But I grew up in the church and I was really encouraged by the brothers that were sharing this morning because I wish I would have heard that when I was a teenager. And you know I rebelled and not in a good way. And it was just after 9/11 that I really was questioning whether or not I was truly saved. I was on one of those planes about two months prior, flying back from New York, I'd been singing and was flying back to LA and like a lot of people it really shook me up. And I really wanted to, like that Psalm says, Lord am I really saved? Test me, help me to know my heart and see if I am truly Yours.

And from there starting to really study the word, started going to a new church and really getting some powerful, powerful Bible teaching and my relationship since then has just blossomed and I love the Lord and I love singing for Him and I love glorifying Him.

RAS: Would you please give a very warm welcome to Christian Ebner.

SOLO – CHRISTIAN EBNER – “Temporary Home”

Sometimes I feel like I'm just walking around with my head up in the clouds, oh yeah. I'm steadily moving, but I'm not gaining ground, headed the wrong way in a crowd. Then I remember I'm not part of this world; I'm moving higher each day, yeah. Upward mobility sound mighty good to me and I just can't wait to get away, yeah.

Got to remember I'm not here to stay. I'm looking forward to a brighter day. Got to remember I'm not here for long I'm just living in my temporary home.

When you are bothered by the problems of life don't you let them get you down, no, no. Just look to Jesus, you will not be denied. He'll move up to higher ground. Don't you forget that you're a child of the King, that you're an heir to His throne. You may not know just when He's coming back again to take us to our happy home.

Got to remember I'm not here to stay I'm looking forward to a brighter day. I got to remember I'm not here for long I'm just living in my temporary home.

Oh got to remember I'm not here to stay I'm looking forward to a brighter day. I got to remember I'm not here for long I'm just living in my temporary home. I'm just living in my temporary home!

RHS THANK YOU TO CHRISTIAN EBNER

RHS: You're something else! We love you. Thank you so much, Christian. Thank you all very, very much.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT H. SCHULLER

"Confident Living = Creative Living: Part 3"

RHS: Good morning. I read in the paper this week it was about the Wall street Journal and it said "Crisis in Confidence." There is a real crisis in confidence in Wall Street today. And with a million homes in foreclosure there's a real crisis in confidence, absolutely. I have never gone through anything like that. I've gone through times when all I ate for a week was a sweet roll and coffee because I was out of money, but that's nothing.

Some of you are really going through the tough times. Yes, I know a little bit about tough times, I wrote a book called, Tough Times Never Last! Never last! But Tough People Do. And I would just hope and pray that some of the words that come out of this well traveled mouth will hit you where you need the help and give you what you need most and that's hope. It's amazing because this isn't just something that's hitting us in America today; it's been with us as long as the human race has been here. We've always needed confidence.

In the Bible, why in the Bible over half a hundred verses refer to the need for confidence. And they didn't have a study of psychology. They were going through tough times. All human beings go through tough times. And you say not the rich, oh boy I know some rich people and they go through times as tough as what you go through. And it seems that we always think that people really don't appreciate tough times unless they experience what we're going through. We don't stop to think of what are they going through. And mostly people would happily exchange their problems with what yours are.

Well confident living is creative living and I want to share with you this morning that even if we have confidence we can lose it in ourselves very quickly. You know I read in one of my psychology books, read that it takes an estimated twenty compliments to every single criticism you get. And people criticize you before they compliment you. Whether you're a winner or a loser, how quickly we could lose it.

You know every Sunday morning I go from what I've done here preaching, down a private stairway into a private little office and the door is closed and nobody can open that door. The first face I want to see and the first voice I want to here is Avella's. And she comes in and I look up to her and I say was it okay? I don't think I miss a Sunday morning. Often times I'm not that bad.

Confidence, where do you get it? Why do you have it? What's the danger of losing it? How do you get it back? I think it's built so deeply into the human system that it's God way of keeping us humble. Yes! People say how do you go through success and keep your humility? I always want to laugh, that's the hardest; that's the most obvious thing in the world. God keeps us humble. Yes.

Boy, you know what happened last week? Baseball started again right? Hello, what did the Dodgers celebrate, their fiftieth anniversary? Is that right? Well anyway I think then of the little boy who heard that baseball was starting and so he took his bat and ball, went outdoors and he said I'm going to be; talk about confidence, I want to hit more home runs than anybody else. He said no I want run up the biggest batting score for runs batted in. And he rattled off all of the other possibilities and he said well I'll start by showing you how a batter hits. And he threw the ball swung at it, missed. Picked the ball up, threw it again. I'm going to be the biggest batter in history. And he swung at it and missed again. Third time he picked it up and this time he would hit it. He was sure of that; took a swing and missed again. And he threw his arms in the air and he said I'm the greatest pitcher in the world! Yeah, confidence. How we need it.

And you know we all have some confidence. At least I think every human being does something that excels. Maybe you make the best chocolate chip cookies. You know. And my daughter has her earned doctorate from the University of California Irvine in education, runs our education department here. And the other day she came by our house and brought us a lemon meringue pie. How many of you like lemon meringue pie? Anybody? How many more? Nobody over here? Good morning. She brought in a lemon meringue pie and I have to tell you honest to God without any possibility of exaggeration, I never saw a lemon meringue pie like it. I mean the meringue on the top was close to three inches. It went all the way around at the same level. It didn't dip here or lean over that way, it was perfectly level. And the meringue wasn't all white or all brown or all flat. It was wavy like lovely little waves on a bay of water. And the waves, they were a golden brown at the top edge and then in the little valley they were white. All of these, it was fantastic, the taste sensation. The big surprise when I took my fork to cut into the meringue, the fork didn't bring the rest of the meringue down. It cut through as if it was a sharpened hot knife. I couldn't believe it. I said, Sheila that's the best meringue pie I've ever had. She said I'm sure that's right. Catch the confidence?

Oh yes, she said, grandma was the best pie maker but grandma never made lemon meringue pie like I do. She said nobody does. I have my little secrets. I never make it out of lemons that I buy in the store. I only make it out of lemons that I pull off the tree. Interesting. And she went through the rest of the details and I couldn't wait to try it so I didn't hear her so much. I just was anxious to eat it. But I never thought that she, with an earned doctorate, would be known in our home from now on as the great baker of lemon meringue pie! Wow!

So everybody's got confidence in something. You may have lost confidence in this or that, but you still have confidence if you have some good friends. And you might call somebody and you know you'll get a lift just hearing the sound of their voice. Or you know it's only two days till Sunday and I'm going to church. I'll sit there and I'll see the faces and I'll hear the voices of the pastors. I know I'll get a lift out of church. They wouldn't put another load on me, I've got enough. Check on your successes, you still have them. Wow!

Now how do you get your confidences back? You go back to your centers of certainty. Everybody has some centers of certainty. There's some person you can talk to. You're sure of that. You haven't lost confidence in their love. That's the kind of marriage I have. We'll be married 58 years this coming June. That marriage is a center of certainty and it gets stronger as the years go by. You know why? Because the memory system is growing and I choose most of my memories. When I go, where I go, what I do, who I talk to. You can shape your memory systems by your values. Wow!

I sat next to this guy on the plane; I'll never forget him. He said I lost everything I had. I said how did that happen? Oh he said, it all started with a fall in you know Wall Street. He said all my money in one stock and it all went down the tubes. I said how do you feel about it? Are you blaming Bear Stearns? He said I was until I heard that they were leveraged thirty to one. Hello did you hear that? Leveraged thirty to one. Then he said all of them in New York, all of them: Neiman Brothers and he went on and rattled off all the big names you know. He said in Wall Street in New York all of us were mortgaged thirty to one. That's why they're all a little nervous. Well, you're worrying about it. Some of you may lose your life savings, that happens. But let me tell you something: You can live with out things, but you can't live without a cause and if you haven't lost the cause you can get through it.

And most of you who are sitting here, you have a cause. It's more than your business; it's more even than your money. It's more than things. Anybody can live without things. But you can't live without a cause. And we have a cause that's all-important, it is to honor God, it is to share Jesus Christ our Savior to people who never know Him. Don't know Him. They're getting ready to live and die without having the peace of mind of knowing that the best friend they have on the other side is a man called Jesus who went there at the age of thirty-three and is alive there now. And I can talk to Him. I haven't lost that. That's the cause. You can live without things, but you can't live without a cause. Wow!

There was a man named Russell Conwell who came from Brookshire Massachusetts and he was an atheist, a strong non-believer and a cynic. But he decided to get some volunteers together and take them all down, go to the war zone and help unite America. Well he was down there and they won victory after victory after victory until they ran into their first defeat. They were still on the wrong side of the river when the enemy came. Close enough to a bridge thank God, they all ran, got on the bridge, came back to the safe side. And he got there and he said I left my sword in the tent. Oh, I need that sword. And one of the boys in his group called Johnnie Ring, he was just a nice young teenager, he said I'll go get it. And Colonel Russell said no, no, no! But he couldn't stop him. The boy was on the bridge running to the other side, straight to the tent, found the sword, came back but the bridge was burning. And the enemy saw him running into the fire and they didn't fire, they didn't shoot. They admired his youth, his heroism and they felt sorry for him and they never shot him. And he came back almost totally burned, dropped the sword at the Colonel's feet, lost consciousness then revived. He said I think I'm dying. Conwell said nothing, he just shook his head. Don't worry Colonel, Johnnie said, I'm ready to die. I know where I'm going. I've got a friend there; He's my Savior Jesus. And with that he looked up one last time and said Colonel do you know Jesus? Then he died then and there. And the Colonel, alone with him, broke into tears, fell on his knees and cried. And he said God I never believed in You, but I need You. Thank you for Johnnie. I want to be a Christian and I want to be a minister. He was going to do that. I'm going to work 16 hours a day the rest of my life, 8 hours to do my thing and then 8 hours to do Johnnie Ring's thing. And Russell Conwell did that.

He became a minister, worked an average of 16 hours a day, 8 for him and 8 for Johnnie Ring. And then he became a minister and he wrote a talk that went over so well it was called Acres of Time, it's one of the most famous speeches in American history and he was called by many big companies to deliver the speech and they paid him handsomely. And when he died all he had left, even though he had raised at the time over 10 million dollars, all he had left was his house, no cash. He took the money and decided he'd build a monument to Johnnie Ring and I'll start a university. He did, it became Temple University. How many of you have ever heard of Temple University? Higher so I can see, that's very good. Now that's how it got started by the gift of one man, Russell Conwell.

How do you come back to confidence when you've lost it? Believe in the God who created you. Believe in the God who never will let anything happen to you unless He can take it up, pick it up, turn it around and make a blessing out of a tragedy. And your worst times will turn out to be your best times. I've lived long enough so I look back on my life and I don't think I've ever had bad luck. I went through trying times, troubling times, tough luck times, but when it was all finished and God was done with the whole thing it was a blessing that came out of it all. Hallelujah. I am persuaded that neither life nor death, nor things present, nor things to come, whatever my troubles are today, whatever my troubles might be

this coming week, I'm persuaded that neither life nor death, things present or things to come will be able to separate me from the love of God! That's where the bottom line comes in. If you know this kind of a God and I do and I know many of you do, life will be beautiful anyway. And you know that tomorrow's a new day. New opportunities will come to you and many of you who are going through great trouble, you don't know it but you're walking into what's going to be one of the greatest blessings of your life. Something good is coming out of your hurt. And it'll be a halo over your head. Hallelujah, Amen.

Let us pray. Oh God, there are people listening whose homes are foreclosed. There are others who have lost their stock and it's almost nothing today. And there are others that have lost their job because the company moved or quit. What do we do? Oh God we pledge our creed, the Possibility Thinkers Creed: When faced with a mountain I will not quit! I will keep on striving until I climb over, find a pass through, tunnel underneath or simply stay and turn the mountain into a goldmine with God's help. Amen.

#### BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: May the love of Jesus Christ live in your heart and when you go through the most horrible trouble you can imagine remember this: God is still alive and God still loves you. Amen.