

HOUR OF POWER OF 08.06.2008

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: After a tragic accident left Tommy Hollenstein a quadriplegic, God gave him a new life as an artist.

TOMMY: Somebody brought me that poem "Footprints" and laid it on the side of my bed. And I'd never seen that poem before. But when I rotated the bed, rotated it side to side and I read that poem, and it talked about where Jesus was carrying the man in the toughest times, I knew Jesus was carrying me at that moment.

VO: Then the amazing voice of Beth Groombridge.

BETH: When answers aren't enough there is Jesus. He is more than just the answer to your prayer.

VO: Then has anxiety and fear taken over your life? Pastor Schuller shows you the way to happiness.

RAS: And the scripture is very true. Do not fear, do not be dismayed. I will strengthen you.

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/INVOCATION

RAS: "Come to Me and I will answer you and show you great and unsearchable things you do not know," says the Lord of hosts. And so we are here. And God's going to open our hearts, He's going to open our minds, He's going to open our eyes. And He's going to reveal to us strength and wisdom that we never knew we had. And that's why you're here today. And so, we're glad you're here; God's going to touch you and use you. In fact right now He's going to use you to welcome those who are standing next to you and around you. Would you please take a moment right now and reach out and shake the hands and say God loves you and so do I.

Dear Heavenly Father we thank You for the opportunity that we have to be here to feel Your touch, to feel Your presence, to realize that You are here empowering, strengthening, guiding and leading. And so we thank You for everything You're doing in our lives right now and always and forever, Amen.

HYMN - "Medley – A Mighty Fortress"

A Mighty Fortress is our God, our Stronghold and Protection; He is our Hope, our Friend, our Guide, the Giver of salvation. Our Lord is God alone, He made the world His own; He speaks and winds obey, He rules 'til endless day; His truth abides forever.

When upon life's journey you are stressed or tossed, when you are discouraged thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings see what God has done; Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the work seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly and you will be singing as the days go by.

Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your blessings see what God has done; Count your blessings, name them one by one; Count your many blessings, see what God has done.

Great is Your faithfulness. Great is Your faithfulness. Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed, Your hand has provided. Great is Your faithfulness, Lord unto me.

SCRIPTURE – Sel. Verses Isaiah 40 & 41 - DONNA

DONNA: Please be seated. I'm honored to read the Holy Scriptures today. I'm first reading from the book of Isaiah, chapter 40 and then I'll be reading a verse or two from 41. So please hear the word of our Lord:

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? Who can fathom the spirit of the Lord or instruct the Lord as his counselor? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and He increases the power of the weak.

And we can trust those words, going on to chapter 41: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

This is the word of the Lord.

ANTHEM - "Breath of Life"

Emptiness and dark, blackness of night, silent universe, voice of any light. Who has the answers? Who holds the key? Who plants the seed that causes life to be?

In one small moment, one strand of time; chaos to reason, nonsense to rhyme. Morning out of night, darkness into light, creator God, creator God breathes a word, breathes a word. The origin of life!

God is the breath of life, source of our being. God holds in hand the seed of every soul, every soul. Eternal Living Stream, Never Ending Fountain, Genesis of all that is and all that is to be, Spirit of God, the Breath of Life!

Who paints the sky in all its beauty? Who shapes the mountains with His Hand? Who forms each wave that crashes on the shore? All creation lives, all creation lives, all creation lives at God's command!

You are the breath of life, source of our being. You hold in hand the seed of every soul, every soul. Eternal Living Stream, Never Ending Fountain, Genesis of all that is and all that is to be, Spirit of God, the Breath of Life, the Breath of Life, the Breath of Life!

RAS THANK YOU TO DON & CHOIR
RAS: Thank you Don, thank you choir.

INTERVIEW – TOMMY HOLLENSTEIN

RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER TH: TOMMY HOLLENSTEIN

RAS: Well there's someone I want to introduce you to. He is an amazing man. His name is Tommy Hollenstein and he is an inspiring artist who grew up basically a typical Southern California surfer, a skateboarder, and extreme sports enthusiast. He loves everything on wheels, anything that went fast. Well, all that changed years ago when Tommy broke his neck in a tragic accident. And that has left him paralyzed from the neck down. And Tommy's accident forced him to learn to express himself artistically, without the use of his arms and legs. And his artwork is currently being displayed in the exhibit "Let There be Light," which is located in our Welcome Center here at the Crystal Cathedral. And so would you please give a very warm Crystal Cathedral welcome to Tommy Hollenstein.

TH: Thank you.

RAS: Tommy, God loves you and so do we.

TH: Thank you very much.

RAS: Tell us what was it like before the accident?

TH: Before my accident I grew up in the San Fernando Valley; great parents, wonderful brothers and sisters. I've got three sisters and a brother. And I spent most of my time doing a lot of sports activities: basketball, football, skateboarding, surfing, surfed most of my life. And I had a great life and just before my accident I was going to school to become a private investigator. I had one day left of school and I broke my neck two days before that school.

RAS: Wow! So take us back to that day. When was it? How many years ago?

TH: It was twenty-three years ago, March 10, 1985. I was just on a bike ride going to see some friends and I was cutting through a short cut. There was a dirt lot to build a house, a slope, another dirt lot, another slope. I went down two slopes, I crossed two lots. When I approached what should have been a third slope it was about five and half feet straight down, four feet out and two feet up. As soon as I got there I thought wow this is going to be a bad one. I hit my head. As soon as I hit my head I died. And I saw myself lying there motionless and I was going farther and farther away from my body and I said oh my God it's my time to go. I'm dead.

RAS: So you were separated from your body and you were looking down on your body?

TH: Exactly, I was looking down at my body and I saw my body lying there with no motion at all. And I said God don't take me now, give me another change. And as soon as I prayed that prayer I came right back in my body but I knew I was paralyzed. I was lying there motionless, I couldn't feel a thing. Didn't know where my legs were and I could just barely shrug my shoulders. And as my friend approached me I said Dave don't move me. I said I broke my neck. And I said go call the paramedics and call my parents. My mom showed up before the paramedics did and she just kind of lost it. And so I was able to tell the paramedics what I could feel and what I couldn't. And they flew me to Northridge hospital. It was at that point the doctors told me that they should call my brothers

and sisters come say goodbye because I probably wouldn't make it through the night. And I literally fought for every breath I took.

RAS: They didn't know that you had already died and that God had sent you back did they?

TH: No they didn't. They didn't know.

RAS: They didn't know that God had a different plan did they?

TH: God definitely had a different plan. Absolutely.

RAS: So there you were lying there and the doctors tell your brothers what they assume is going to happen.

TH: Exactly and they had no idea, you know? And at that time I spent seventeen days in intensive care. And there was a gentleman named Joe Hitzman, I used to play football with his kids but I really didn't know Joe. And he would come and read me the bible every day. And during that time when he would read me the bible I would go to sleep. And I told him Joe don't think I'm being disrespectful to God, but it's the only time I feel enough peace in this room to catch an hours sleep. Because I was afraid with what the doctor's reports were that, you know, I was not going to make it through. And I was on a rotor bed. The bed would rotate side to side and when my left lung collapsed and I caught pneumonia and I was really fighting for every breath I took, I was kind of thinking God where are You? I looked and somebody had put that poem on the side of my bed that said "Footprints." And it talked about the toughest times where God was carrying that person. As soon as I read that poem I knew God was carrying me and getting me through that time. And without Him it was not going to be possible.

RAS: Now you refused to let them put a ventilator in your lungs, correct?

TH: I did.

RAS: And why was that?

TH: I didn't want to be breathing on a machine. I just wanted to; I knew God would give me the strength. You know especially after reading that poem. And I didn't want to start depending on machines and see things go for the worse. You know? I knew I'd make it without it.

RAS: So you exercised your way through. Tell us about your recovery periods. So you were in the hospital in intensive care for seventeen days, and the hospital for a few days after that, I suppose.

TH: Six months, I was in the hospital six months.

RAS: Six months and then I suppose you go to rehab, right?

TH: Yes and the rehab part you're doing occupational therapy, recreational therapy and physical therapy. About thirteen therapies a day. And during the recreational therapy they were trying to teach me how to paint by putting a paintbrush in my mouth. It just wasn't fluid. I didn't like it, it was too restraining. So I really didn't do any art for like the next thirteen years.

RAS: What changed all that? What got you back involved in art?

TH: How I got was really a God idea. It wasn't my idea. I had another service dog named Weaver, as he started to get older.

RAS: Wait a minute; you said another service dog because you have your other service dog right here.

TH: I do.

RAS: Yes. Oh, she moved a paw there. Hailey is very active, we can tell.

TH: Yes.

RAS: Yes, she happens to be about the sweetest dog you've every seen.

TH: Hailey.

RAS: Hello Hailey, how are you today huh? Oh am I waking you and disturbing you? Yes stretch. Oh I'm so sorry Hailey. Yeah, oh you're a sweet dog. Okay I'll let you go back to sleep. I'm sorry for disturbing you. So you had another service dog.

TH: I did. I got my first service dog two years after my accident. As he started to get older I knew when he passed away I wanted to see something on my walls aside from just a picture of he and I. So God gave me the idea to roll through paint, have the dog walk through paint. So I'd see tire tracks and paw prints along side each other so that would be the memory I would see so I'd just think about our time together. It was at that point that God really inspired me and said now I could use the chair, because I paint with the tires on my wheelchair. That's how I do my painting today. I put paint on the tires and roll through the paint.

RAS: So this is your paintbrush.

TH: This is my brush.

RAS: I'm looking at it right there.

TH: You are looking at it, absolutely.

RAS: Wow!

TH: Yes.

RAS: There's your real paintbrush. We just showed a video of that. In fact that's his real paintbrush. You don't use this one. Or do you? This is the same one.

TH: I do yes, it's the same one.

RAS: It's the same one. Now do we have any examples of his art? I want to show people his art. If we have some, would you throw that on the Jumbotron?

TH: A lot of them are real abstract. This is called Salvation. And it was a red cross representing the blood of Christ and two crosses alongside. It's a black background with two black crosses on the side, which you really don't see, but you see the Red Cross. A lot of them are really just about joy. I mean it's just my freedom. I mean it's my way of using the chair to feel the freedom. It's a time I feel most free while I'm in the chair, is when I'm moving across that canvas and chasing after what was a dream as a child to be an artist. You know I knew God called me to be an artist and He was going to make a way. It took quite a few years, but it was through the use of the dog that He brought that out of me. You know and I've been blessed and very fortunate to be doing shows and to have a show here at the Crystal Cathedral and in the Richard Myer building. This is a miracle. Now when I found out I was in the Richard Myer building, the same architect that did the Getty Center, you know that was it was just really, really inspiring to me.

RAS: Well thank you Tommy. We're just honored to be able to display your art here. We really are. You have a heart for disabled children now don't you?

TH: I do.

RAS: What are you doing with them?

TH: Just recently I had a show at the Boston Children's hospital back in Boston. And part of the show was I would come out for two days and paint with some children that were in wheelchairs. Now I'm used to meeting kids and teaching kids a new way of life out here that have an injury. But here these were kids that were terminally ill. And there was one boy in particular that had just gone through brain surgery and he hadn't spoken in two and a half weeks. And I kept asking him what color he wanted to paint with, which board. And he kept pointing, kept pointing and finally he said red. And the therapist just broke down because I didn't know he hadn't spoken. I painted with that little boy for two and a half hours. At five o'clock that night his mother brought him back down, pushed him down in his wheelchair and she was just sobbing. And I said what's up? And

she said, Francisco got up and walked today. So God used that art to help this child.

RAS: Wow.

TH: You know I've been blessed with a gift, a gift of painting and it's the biggest way I can honor and glorify God is to use that gift. And that's what I hope to continue to do.

RAS: Tell us about your faith in Jesus Christ and what that means to you in relation to your art.

TH: Well it's my faith in Jesus Christ is the most important thing. The more time I spend in the word, the more time I spend in services. The more time I spend in praise and worship, the more God speaks to me and reveals things to me about my childhood about how growing up, how He was inspiring me to be an artist and I missed it sometimes. But the more time I spend with God, the easier it is for me to hear His voice and to listen to His guidance and try to stay on that road. Try to stay on the right path.

RAS: And so that's what you are doing these days is you're staying on the right path and you're using your wheelchair to create art. And to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world. And so Tommy we want to thank you for your..

TH: Thank you.

RAS: ..for your commitment to Jesus Christ, for your positive attitude and your willingness to make a difference with your art and with your wheelchair and for helping others.

TH: Thank you so much.

RAS: Discover the same things.

TH: It was an honor to be here. Thank you so much.

RAS: God loves you Tommy and so do we.

TH: God loves you.

HYMN - "O Bless the Lord, My Soul"

O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to me proclaim! And all that is within me join to bless His holy name.

O bless the Lord, my soul! His mercies keep in mind! Forget not all His benefits! The Lord to me is kind.

He clothes me with His love; Upholds me with His truth; And like the eagle, He renews the vigor of my youth!

Then bless His holy name, Whose grace has made me whole; Whose loving kindness crowns my days! O bless the Lord, my soul!

PREP FOR OFFERING - RAS

RAS: So at this time we're going to ask the ushers to come forward and we're going to present our gifts of faith to God.

SOLO – BETH GROOMBRIDGE – “When Answers Aren't Enough”

You have faced the mountains of desperation. You have climbed, you have fought, you have won. But this valley that lies coldly before you casts a shadow you cannot overcome. And just when you thought you had it all together, you knew every verse to get you through. But this time all the sorrow broke more than just your heart, and reciting all those verses just won't do.

When answers aren't enough, there is Jesus; He is more than just the answer to your prayer. And your heart will find a safe and peaceful refuge. When answers aren't enough, He's there.

Instead of asking, "Why did it happen?" Think of where it could lead you from here. And as your pain is slowly easing, you can find a greater reason to live your life triumphant through the tears.

When answers aren't enough, there is Jesus; He is more than just the answer to your prayers. And your heart can find a safe and peaceful refuge. When answers aren't enough, He's there. When answers aren't enough, He is there. He is there.

RAS THANK YOU BETH/PRAYER FOR OFFERING

RAS: Thank you Beth, thank you orchestra. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that You have given us the ability and a lot of that starts with the mind and the thought and the faith to trust You. And because You have given us that trust, You have also given us the financial resources with which to give. And so today we have, and here is our gift. We present to You and we ask You that You will use this to be able to reach as many people as possible with the good news of Jesus Christ, that lives, that hearts, that minds, that souls may be changed for the better, forever with You, Amen.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER

"Strengthened in God's Presence"

RAS: Today I'm going to be preaching from the book of Isaiah, which is a fabulous book in the bible. One of the things about Isaiah is that the book of Isaiah is actually divided into two sections. You have the section of judgment and you have the section of comfort. There happens to be 66 chapters in the book of Isaiah. Now, here's an interesting thought. The bible has 66 books in it. The bible has two sections; you have the Old Testament and the New Testament. Some people refer to it as the book of judgment and the book of comfort. Isaiah has 66 chapters in it. You have 39 chapters in the book of judgment and 27 chapters in the book of comfort. In the Old Testament you have 39 chapters in the Old Testament and 27 chapters in the New Testament. The book of Isaiah mirrors the whole bible. It's a reflection of what it is.

So contained within these fabulous words we come to this point where we read Isaiah 41:10 which are the words I want to share with you today. And here's what it says: "So do not fear for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Powerful words for us today. Words that follow the previous words in the passages and the promises I shared with you from weeks past.

Only two weeks ago I shared with you the words, "I have not given you a spirit of fear but of power and love and a sound mind." And last week we discovered that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. So today we take the next step of discovering that He does not want us to fear nor to be dismayed.

It's kind of a challenging thing to do in our society and in our world today, especially when you go to the gas pump. Has anyone here noticed the price of gas going up a little bit? I was shocked! I went to the gas station the other day and the price of gas was over \$4.00 a gallon! Its insanity and it just keeps going up. In fact my wife and I decided; we have made the decision that we are going to examine and find out what it's going to take for us; we're going to take the bus from our home to the Crystal Cathedral. That's what we're going to do. Now,

we're going to leave tomorrow and I think I'll be here in time for next week. You know unfortunately the mass transit system in southern California isn't all that user friendly. At least I haven't discovered it to be that way for myself. And some of you may have discovered that it works for you, but I haven't found out if it works for me yet or not, but we're going to try it and we're going to actually give it a whirl and see how long it takes for me to get to work. In fact I'm going to do it Thursday. There's a bus station right outside in front of my house. Donna and I are going to walk down to the bus station and we're going to get on the bus and see if we can get here before we have to leave. I don't know, I have absolutely no idea what we're in store for but we're going to figure it out. Why? It's to handle and deal with this fear and this dismay of fuel prices.

I have a friend of mine who was laid off this week. You know what else I did this past week? I paid taxes. I wrote a check and had to send in my taxes. How about health issues? Is there anyone here who struggles, and challenge and has fears with their health today? About our health care system? Do you have fears and anxiety about your family, your children, your parents, your brothers, sisters, cousins?

You know our fears and our dismay goes on and on and on. But the reason we fall into this trap of fear and dismay is because we have the wrong paradigm and the wrong glasses and the wrong understanding of who we are. Not until we come to the realization that we are children of God. That we are spiritual beings on our human journey as opposed to human beings with spiritual experiences. Until we realize we are spiritual beings, we're going to continue in this cycle of fear and dismay because as human beings we have a lot to fear, but as spiritual beings we have absolutely nothing to fear.

The bible is very clear, God is very clear. Here He says specifically, "Do not fear for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you." And it's that clear. God says He will strengthen us. Later in the New Testament it says in 4:13, Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. And we can look at examples, examples like Tommy. Here is a man who embraces his handicap and today is creating amazing world-renowned art.

Henry Faucet's another man who embraced his fears. In 1858 at the age of 25 he was hunting with his father and his father accidentally shot him in the face, a shotgun. He survived but he lost his eyes in the process. Now, it took him a while to recuperate and to recover and in the process of recovering and dealing with the loss of his eyesight he witnessed the grief his father felt. Could you imagine? Accidentally shooting one of your own children and blinding one of your own children? Hurting one of your own children? That's the last thing a parent ever wants to do is hurt their own child. And his father did this. And in his anguish, he wished he was dead. He just wanted to go home and be with the Lord.

And Henry saw the anguish of his father and trying to comfort his father, what he did is he decided to start thinking positive thoughts and sharing positive thoughts with his father. So he would go in and say hey dad it's not that bad, you know its just eyesight. I can finish my schooling by having somebody read to me and I can compose my essays by dictation. Somebody can write it down for me. I can get through this, its just eyes. I'm still here, my face is still here. My body is still alive, it's just my eyes. And in the process of trying to uplift his father he uplifted himself. By speaking positive thoughts to himself, he started thinking positive thoughts. By trying to encourage his father, he started realizing that he didn't have a handicap. He just had to find a different way to deal with it. And five years later

he became the professor of political economy at Cambridge. Another two years later he was elected to parliament and by 1880 he became the post-master general of the United Kingdom.

The only handicap we have is the handicap that we have between our two ears. It is the thoughts that get into our mind, the negative thoughts that come and tear us down and says you can't do that, you're blind, you can't do that you're a cripple, you can't do that because you're not good enough. And these fears continue to weigh us down and hold us back from being the people God has called us to be. And the scripture is very true. "Do not fear, do not be dismayed. I will strengthen," you says the Lord of hosts, the King of kings. I will help you, He says.

In Romans 8:28 we read that "All things work together for good to those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." And when I read these words that God's going to help us, I don't think that God is going to come and actually move the mountains for us. He's not going to come and give us our eyesight back. He's not going to necessarily come and help us to walk again. What He is going to do is help us conquer the negative thoughts which hold us back. He's going to give us wisdom, He's going to give us knowledge, He's going to give us new paradigms with which to see the world to act and to move and to change the things because of the different ideas that come into our minds in which to handle the problems that we face today. And that's the way God helps us 99.9% of the time. Once in a while God does decide that He's going to do something dramatic and do a miracle and you see people walk on water. It happens. They're miracles and that's why they're miracles. But what God gives to every single one of us constantly, what He promises to do is to help us and if it means that we need to do a miracle then so be it. But most of us are not suffering from a lack of anything more than a lack of positive ideas.

Case in point: how many people here think we have a problem with our health care system? Anyone here? You know I studied health for five years. Seriously studied health. I had a radio show where I interviewed wellness professionals and leading edge doctors, PhDs and researchers and MD's and you name it. I did that five days a week for five years for an hour a day. Live radio show. I would interview the person for about a half hour and then I would open up the phone lines and if I didn't ask them the right questions somebody would ask the question for me. It was an amazing education.

Now what I learned through that whole thing is that our paradigm of health and wellness in America seriously has to change. And I wrote a book. I wrote it in 2000 it came out on Possibility Living: Add years to your life and life to your years with God's health plan. And I shared things in there which were way ahead of their time. And today, every time I hear a news article they come out with something that I shared eight years ago. I mean it was just way ahead of its time. And the fact is that we're not going to solve our health care system by simply dumping more money into it. It's not going to happen. We already spend more money than any country in the world on our healthcare. And we're listed as number 37 in industrialized nations according to the world health organization. So dumping money into our health care system isn't going to fix it. What is going to fix it, what is going to help us is for us to get a paradigm shift within us to understand health and wellness; take responsibility for ourselves and make a difference personally. God will help you. It's a promise. He'll give you ideas and thoughts and paradigms that you never knew before. So "Do not fear for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." I will uphold you.

John 15 says, "Whatever you ask in My name the Father will give you." Whatever you ask. And the fact is that God wants to uphold you. You know whenever I hear that word uphold with His right hand I think of the old song, He's got the whole world in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands; He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got you and me sister in His hands, He's got you and me sister in His hands, He's got you and me sister in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands. We can go on and on you know? That song goes on and on. There's a lot of verses to it but you've all heard that song haven't you? It's a great, great song and it's so true. He's got the whole world in His hands. And that means you and that means you and that means me. And He'll uphold us. He'll keep us from falling. He'll never let us fail and He'll be there for us. He does it in mysterious ways.

There was a nurse who led the serviceman to the bedside of a dying man and as he came in the nurse woke up this man and she said your son is here. She tried to shake him a little bit, it took her a while to wake him up because he was so sedated and he finally woke up and he said oh my son is here. And he held his hand and this marine sat there and held this man's hand for hour after hour. And the nurse would come along and say you know you probably need a little break I can sit in there for you. But he wouldn't do it. He would not leave this man's side. And by day break the man's body had shut down and he passed away. And the nurse came in to share her condolences with this young marine and she said I'm so sorry your father passed away. And the marine said, no, no it's not my father. I have no idea who that man is. Who is he? Why did you bring me in here? I had come here to get a tour of the hospital. And God used him to hold the hand of this man while he died because he needed his son next to his side and he died thinking his son was there and this marine, knowing that, would not leave his side for anything. And God touched the marine and God touched the dying man.

And God does those kinds of things. He comes in and He moves and He shapes and He touches our lives in such a way where by giving we receive. And by receiving God gives. "Do not fear for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with My right hand, My righteous right hand." And that word righteous is a wonderful word for all of us. And the reason it's so wonderful for all of is the fact that God, in spite of the fact of our sins, in spite of the fact that we don't deserve it, God is there being righteous, forgiving and loving. That in spite of all of our shortcomings and all of our failures it doesn't matter for us because we cannot earn this promise and we cannot earn this tremendous gift from God. It is His righteousness. His love for us that over shadows everything we can do to separate us from His love.

So "Do not fear for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and I will help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." And so oh God we hold on to Your promises. We embrace Your truth. We live with the assurance and the understanding that You are there for us, strengthening us, helping us, upholding us and so we have nothing to fear because You are our God. We love You Lord, Amen.

HYMN - "How Firm a Foundation"

Fear not, I am with You, O be not dismayed for I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, and help you and cause you to stand, upheld by My righteous omnipotent hand. Amen!

BENEDICTION - RAS

RAS: And now may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit touch your hearts and your minds with His confidence and His

assurance that He will be there with you always giving you strength, giving you help, and upholding you through the toughest times forever, Amen.

ANTHEM – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of Heaven to earth come down. Fix in us Your humble dwelling, all Your faithful mercies crown! Jesus, You are all Compassion, pure, unbounded Love You are; Visit us with Your salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all Your life receive; Suddenly return and never, nevermore Your temples leave. You we would be always blessing; serve You as Your hosts above; Pray and praise You without ceasing, glory in Your perfect love.

Finish, then, Your new creation; Pure and spotless in all we do; Let us see Your great salvation perfectly restored in You; Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place; Till we cast our crowns before You, lost in wonder, love, and praise. Till we cast our crowns before You, lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen!