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## HOURLY OF POWER OF 29.06.2008

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

From the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, join Robert Schuller in an Hour of Power now celebrating our 37th year as the face and voice of positive Christianity to the world.

### HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful.."

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love; Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away; Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day. Amen! Amen! Amen!

### GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RHS: Wow – and all God's people said Wow! This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### HYMN - "Have Faith in God"

Have faith in God, my heart, trust and be unafraid; God will fulfill in every part each promise He has made.

Have faith in God, my mind even though the light burns low, God's mercy holds a wiser plan than you can fully know.

Have faith in God, my soul, His cross forever stands; And neither life nor death can pluck His children from His hands. Alleluia!

### SCRIPTURE – Sel. Verses from John - RAS

RAS: Please be seated. In the scripture I'm going to read for you, is one that will share with us the treasures that we find, because my father is speaking on that topic. And so I'm going to share some wonderful words with you this morning. These are the words of Jesus. Hear them:

If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. Most assuredly I say to you, before Abraham was, I am. I am the Light of the World. All who follow Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life. I am the Bread of Life. All who come to Me shall never hunger, and all who believe in Me shall never thirst. I am the Door. If any enter by Me, they will be saved. I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd and I know My sheep and am known by My own. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. I am the True Vine and My Father is the Vinedresser. I am the Resurrection and the Life. All who believe in Me though they may die, they shall live.

### ANTHEM - "We Walk by Faith"

We walk by faith and not by sight, we trust in God and not in might. For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.

Sometimes trials come our way. We don't know what to do or say. But we know God will make a way if we will trust, trust and obey.

We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might. For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.

We trust in God and in His Son. What God has promised will be done. And as each journey is begun His Holy Spirit makes us one.

We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might. For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.

We may not fully understand, but we are guided by His hand. And as we follow faith's command, God leads us to the Promised Land.

We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might. For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.

RHS THANK YOU TO CATHEDRAL CHOIR

RHS: Thank you Don Neuen, thank you Cathedral Choir.

INTERVIEW – DR. LAURA SCHLESSINGER

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RHS: ROBERT HAROLD SCHULLER DLS: DR. LAURA SCHLESSINGER

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RHS: We have a guest this morning who is not a new guest. Laura Schlessinger has been a friend of mine, I guess, for a couple of decades if she's that old. But she's one of my favorite friends; she's a great national treasure, internationally syndicated radio talk show host, a licensed marriage and family therapist, an author of eight New York Times best seller books, my goodness. I haven't had that many. Laura, come on here and tell us what you have to share with us today. We're talking about your new book and I'm going to try to make it her ninth book on the New York Times bestseller list.

DLS: That means we'll save a lot of marriages which is what it's all about.

RHS: That's very true. Wow. Is there such a thing as a perfect marriage?

DLS: Absolutely.

RHS: Really?

DLS: Oh, you don't believe me? There's such a thing as a perfect marriage? And it takes very little work. It takes an attitude. It takes an attitude that every Sunday; hopefully every other day of the week, but every Sunday you convey to the people here and that is you live for something and someone outside of yourself. That's what.. to me that's the basic teaching of religion that you are not the center of the universe, but the love you give and the attention you pay to the needs of others. So, when you get up each morning and look at your spouse and say what can I do to make his or her life worth living today, as opposed to just happy cause an English muffin with too much jam will do it for me, but worth living, that's the attitude as opposed to oh I have a schedule, oh she/he didn't, whatever, it's the negativity and whatever it is that you feed, the negative or the positive is what sets roots down.

RHS: Listen; is there a secret to happy marriages that people just aren't talking about enough?

DLS: Yeah, I think mostly we talk about how we're disappointed, upset, disturbed, frustrated, irritated about marriage, about our spouse, about the family, about kids, about this and that and the other thing. And we're not told enough.. we go into marital therapy and excuse me but most of marital therapy, okay, what are you mad about this week and what are you mad about this week now, and try to negotiate that and when we spend all that time in what you're both mad about, you don't walk out of there holding hands. But if I said remember why you fell in love with him? You remember why you fell in love with her? We go back to those thoughts and those memories. We go back to what was loving and valuable and I think we spend too much time dwelling on what happened when people are truly remorseful. Taking responsibility, I mean only God can know true remorse in your heart, but there's a behavior of repairing it and not doing whatever it is again. That to me shows remorse. When the person is indicated that, you just take that and you let that go and you deal with the blessing the person is giving you and the change they've made today.

RHS: That's choosing to focus on happy memories, find them. You may have forgotten them, right?

DLS: Sure.

RHS: Super.. this is why we like each other; we're so much into thinking positively all of the time. In your experience, what's the most common obstacle married couples face today and how can they conquer it?

DLS: The most common obstacle today, I think is that there's very little out there that supports marriage and commitment and sacrifice.

RHS: Really?

DLS: You look at television, and what do you see? It's kind of disgusting, and it doesn't show.. I mean everybody makes fun of the sitcoms that were in the 50's and early 60's that showed actual intact families, where everybody got along and the wife was nice and the husband was nice. Everybody makes fun of that. Anytime you hear any talk about marriage, oh lets make fun of all of this, and we have very little support. So I get a lot of feedback saying, you know, I really like your books and I really like your show because you're giving support for the positive things of enjoying the fact that you live longer, guys, and you make more money when you're married.

RHS: Listen.. what role does a person's faith play in maintaining a healthy marriage?

DLS: Well there are two ways I could answer that. One, when you have faith in God and your religion is meaningful to you and you walk the talk, then you're more patient and you're more accepting and understanding and compassionate and generous, so that's one way of looking at it. You're taught in your religion how to be as a human being to another person. But there's another aspect of faith, and I hadn't thought of it till you just asked me the question. And that is a question that.. when I was in private practice I would ask people who came in real mad with each other; do you have any faith that they have your best interest at heart? And they sit there and they go blah, blah, blah, blah, well yeah I guess so. Well then why do you behave like you don't have any faith in them at all? That every little stupid idiotic dumb thing each of us says and does in any one day, is blown this big and the faith is put aside. So that's the two ways I think faith, have faith that that love has some content and has duration and means something, because unlike divine creatures, we are human mortal and we can be very stupid and thoughtless and insensitive at a moment.

RHS: The first time you were here, you were here with your husband and a little boy, just a little above your knees, under your thighs.

DLS: Yeah.

RHS: He not here today, where is he?

DLS: He's deployed. He's in the army. He is putting his life between the bad guys and everybody here. So I'm very proud of him even though I'm a nervous wreck. Scary.

RHS: Tell him that we all prayed for him today.

DLS: Thank you. I will do that and if I may just say, I work with Operation Family Fund, which raises money for the families of our fallen and severely injured military heroes from Afghanistan and Iraq, and there's like no overhead, everybody volunteers all their time and effort so all the money goes to help the families cause you know its not just the soldier or the marine or the navy person, it's the family that stands behind them, it's the whole family that's really doing its job for us. And so if you go on my website at [drlaura.com](http://drlaura.com), I'm having a 60's birthday bash with 60's music March 3rd, so if you'd like to come all the money goes to help the families. Just check out my website.

RHS: We both of us come from the classic Judaic Christian value system, which has always held such a strong faith in marriage and the family. That does seem to be under more threat today than I think I've ever seen it in my lifetime. Would that be..

DLS: Yes.

RHS: ..a negative judgment, or is that..

DLS: No..

RHS: ..true.

DLS: ..you're being kind about it. It's pretty horrible right now. I mean when I have to talk to 18/25 year old girls trying to tell them that their bodies are something special and it should be only given in a loving covenant, it's like what, why? So the families are not teaching the values that esteem us. We keep worrying about self esteem, I keep hearing everybody in the high schools are worrying about self esteem, well telling them that something so intimate about their body and so intimate about love and living together and raising children together, can be with this person one day and another person the other day, I don't think elevates human beings, I think it diminishes us.

RHS: Absolutely. It turns us into a product.

DLS: Well it turns us into to lower animals.

RHS: Yes, exactly.

DLS: And I don't want to be a gerbil.

RHS: No.

DLS: No.

RHS: After services this morning, you'll be willing to autograph your new book, right?

DLS: I'm going to be in your bookstore right there.

RHS: Yeah, right there, okay. Dr. Laura, may I give you a hug?

DLS: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you.

**RHS INTRODUCES MICHAEL O'BRIEN**

RHS: Now, Michael O'Brien, hey, tell me the story about your latest CD.

MOB: By the way, its great to be here, a blessing, Dr. Schuller, I've watched you since I was about that high, so it's just an honor to be here. My wife and I have been married for.. we're about to celebrate our 18th year, but before, about six years ago we were in what we would call our dark ages and she was labeled with manic depression and bipolar and I was labeled with being selfish and needed to work on that. And God just really did a miracle in our relationship. I started

reading books and I went to counseling, she went to counseling, we went to counseling together, and God just began to restore that love and I began to write these nostalgic kind of Nat King Cole songs, she loves that kind of music. And just to cherish her, lift her up and so here we are, we're singing these songs and just telling people the good news that there's hope, even when you feel like there's not.

RHS: Great. Great. Sing for us.

SOLO – MICHAEL O'BRIEN – “Sandra Heidi Anne”

Sandra Heidi Ann, sixteen years still holding hands. Every day's a sweet romance; every day's a new adventure. This extraordinary love can be extremely complicated but it's more than enough to sustain me, contain me.

Sandra Heidi Anne, we're strolling down love's boulevard. I tip my hat to my wishing star on this sentimental evening. I require no invitation for quiet walks and rendezvous. My only expectation, please forgive me, is that you're with me. I possess what others dream about if you should ever doubt it's true. It's undeniable, indefinable, incomprehensible.

Sandra Heidi Ann I'm the only man for you. Can't imagine what I'd do if you weren't in the picture. To have and to hold you is all that I desire and in case I haven't told you you're amazing, so amazing, Sandra Heidi Anne, Sandra Heidi Anne.

INSTRUMENTAL – HOP ORCHESTRA – “Meditation on In the Garden”

SOLO – PAM THUM – “Faithful Heart”

A faithful heart is treasure found. It rises up from a sacred ground. Its precious light consumes the dark 'cause love shines bright from a faithful heart.

Sometimes we find a hero that goes on before, shows us the way. Sometimes we get to follow, and walk that road of faith. Sometimes we all grow weary, but fight on, though our strength is gone. Sometimes in love and mercy, we choose to walk on strong.

A faithful heart is treasure found. It rises up from a sacred ground. Its precious light consumes the dark 'cause love shines bright from a faithful heart.

Even oceans filled with hopeless dreams, oh, can never put out the fire. Faith is so much stronger than it seems; It just keeps burning brighter.

A faithful heart is treasure found. It rises up from a sacred ground. Its precious light consumes the dark 'cause love shines bright from a faithful heart. A faithful heart is treasure found. It rises up from a sacred ground. Its precious light consumes the dark 'cause love shines bright from a faithful heart. 'Cause love shines bright from a faithful heart.

'Cause love shines bright from a faithful heart.

RHS THANK YOU TO PAM THUM

RHS: Thank you so much. What great music we have in this church.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT H. SCHULLER

"Why the Cross is the Chosen Symbol in the World's Largest Faith"

RHS: I have a question today I've never preached on before. I don't think I could ever give the message I'm giving today at any earlier time in my life. I am astonished at how my perceptivity has been influenced by the spirit of Christ between the ages of 75 and 80. It's amazing how perceptions change in that stage of life. And it's affected my theology as well. So I'm asking the question today that I've never asked before. Why did the cross of Jesus become the chosen symbol of the faith that counts more people as followers than any other religion in history? And it's interesting because today as I bring this subject, we are remembering that Easter starts very soon. I want to answer that question with three statements.

How you interpret the cross is your decision. And there are three basic choices you have. The first choice, I call it the choice of Lenin, the atheist. And I have put before me today, just a minute ago, an extremely rare and valuable book. I know of no one else that's ever received it. It's written by the number one Lenin authority. He occupies Lenin's private apartment where Lenin and his family lived till his death. I was brought to Russia by Armand Hammer. It brought me to Gorbachev. And they said Dr. Schuller, we've been told many things about Lenin, probably you should visit his private residence, which is not open to the public. So it was open to me. And the man who greeted me at the door was the chief Lenin-ologist. He has the answers to more questions about Lenin than anybody else and when I left, he gave me a copy of the book on Lenin.

How did Lenin become an atheist? He said, Schuller, let me show you his apartment. Follow me and he led me first to the kitchen. The dishes were still on the table that were there when he died. Then he led me to a little study where he studied. There was a... they called a phonograph and there was a record of Beethoven whom he loved to listen to. And he did his most personal reading there and the Lenin-ologist said Dr. Schuller, we don't do this with others, but I've been watching you on Hour of Power here out of Moscow and we really respect you. I'm going to give you a rare privilege; sit in the chair behind the desk. That's Lenin's chair. That's where he sat. So I did. He said turn to your right and what do you see? I said a book, a wall of books. Yes. At your eye level, what books do you see? Do you see a red one? I said yes. Pull it out. I pulled it out; the title was "Jesus." He read that? I asked. Yes. Then how did he become an atheist, I asked. He said it's very tragic. He even had in mind becoming a priest in the Orthodox church. And one day in class, the professor said as he was holding his cross, he said you know, to be a Christian you have to understand what the cross means. You have to understand that the cross means that God wants us all to suffer and die, the kind of a death Jesus did to prove that we're totally committed. And Lenin looked up and shocked, reached for the cross around his neck, jerked it off, threw it on the ground and said then I'm never going to carry the cross again.

Three choices. You can take the Lenin approach. And I've heard people at least say in my lifetime, they say why do they use a cross for a symbol? It's a negative thing. Dr. Schuller, you're so positive. You don't talk about that. Why don't you? And I'm not going to give you the detailed answer that I have today but I'll give you a direction to one of the three choices you have.

The second choice: second choice is also a big theological thing. I found it from the Grand Mufti in Samaria. There are six Grand Mufti's in the world of Islam. One Pope in the Catholic church, six Grand Mufti's in the Islam faith. I got a letter out of the blue from the Grand Mufti in Syria in Damascus inviting me to come and preach the sermon on their Holy day, a Friday. I couldn't believe it. Well it was unusual. As it turns out, I was the first non-Muslim, first Christian ever invited to preach a full sermon. And I was given the privilege to choose my

own title. And they would not censor it. It was quite interesting. I accepted. I went there. And I found in the Grand Mufti Kufaro, one of the most powerful spiritual giants I've ever met in my life, even though he belonged to a different faith. We did point out the thing we separate largely on in the Islam and Christian religion is we both believe in Jesus Christ. Both the Koran and the Bible says He was born of the virgin Mary. And we both believe that He's alive today and that He will come again.

But the big thing that separates us is the concept of the trinity; Christians believe that God is three persons in one, just like the human being is three persons in one. There's one Robert Schuller, but there is a master mind like God the Father. There is a body with hands, feet like Jesus Christ. There is a heart, emotions that can motivate us like the Holy Spirit.

But the Islam hasn't been able to accept that, though I must say I don't they've ever heard it the way I'm explaining it now. And millions of Muslims watch this program every week and I thank you for honoring us by listening to us. But what happened is that the Muslims never got an answer to another very important question. And that is if Jesus was God and human at the same time, how could God die? You get an answer, and we don't believe He died on a cross. So I want to address that very briefly because that's a question some people ask and they're not Muslims, they're sitting in this congregation. Some of you ask that.. Jesus died on the cross. If He was totally God how could that be? I want to try to answer it. Three persons. The human Jesus flesh, bones, meat and hair, hammered with nails to a wooden cross, that person of the trinity died. Dead. But God, the divinity, did not. Did not.

God in Him didn't die but His body died. Then what happens, why do you believe in the cross, how do you interpret the cross, how do you see the cross, may I share my faith, then you believe in the cross that deserves to be the crown statement of the faith in the whole world until the end of time.

The third choice is to believe in Jesus Christ. Why? Because the cross says we are a religion that's honest. We don't say that if you become a Christian that everything will always go your way. You don't say that. We don't say that if you become a Christian you're spared of all hardship, suffering and death. We don't say that. What we do say is you can go through your own cross and all of you will somehow, someday, but you will recover, you will be resurrected, there will be an Easter coming to you. That's the uniqueness of the Christian religion that no other religion offers. Our leader lived, died, suffered the worst death, even though He lived the most perfect life, and came back on Easter. That's why the cross has a power that no other religious symbol has ever chosen.

Let me tell you in the few minutes I have left. I have a very personal friend and I cannot name his name. And we're so close that we've had dinner together many times. I must maintain his secrecy. He came from a foreign country, was given the privilege to become a citizen of America. And he's so grateful that when the war broke out in Iraq, he was one of the first to volunteer because he speaks other languages including Arabic. He was assigned to security services, covert operations they call it. Dangerous. And he spent his first year there and came back, he saw what was the intention and he was asked in Washington to go back for another tour and he did. Close calls. Covert, alone, driving his own car, nobody with him, he did good work and they asked him if he could go back for another tour, and he went back for a third tour of duty. He had some close calls and many. He would say in my kind of work, you're not just in dangers way, I probably escaped death an average of four times a day.

Then, they needed him badly. No one else could replace him in language. They asked him if he'd go back for a fourth tour, that was a little over a year ago, and we had a special, very small and private dinner party for him, and at the end I felt concerned. He was a friend of mine. I mean I'm close to this guy. And before I left the dinner party, I said, may I pray for you, and he said sure. And I did what I don't always do, I put my hands open palms on each side of his face, lifted it up, and his eyes were open, he was still. And I prayed dear God, this is Bob Schuller. We know each other. You know, we've had a lot of conversations back and forth, God, and You've always been good to me. You've answered my prayers, dear God, this is a special one. Spare his life from death.

I didn't realize it but I was half smiling through the prayer. I believed it would happen. We hugged and he left. I saw him this past week. He came home. And he said Dr. Schuller; I can't tell you how that prayer kept me alive this year. Three times I was spared from death by a miracle. By a miracle. There was the time when I was sitting on the bench in front of the hotel, which was the embassy of the Americans. Perfectly safe. I saw a car come in, I don't know why but God pushed me off the bench. I fell on the ground. I didn't plan it. It was an accident that God set up. And I wasn't on the ground but seconds when that car was coming right toward where we were. And the shells, dozens of them from sub machine guns, right over the bench where I was sitting into the building. Total miracle. He said I'll never forget it. That's just one.

The second miracle: I was captured. Captured? I became a hostage. Hostage? You never told me that. For while I was a hostage, my hands were tied, my feet were tied, lying on the ground, three guards of the enemy would kick me in the head, kicked me in the sides, stamp on my feet and arms. That went on then we escaped. That was the second miracle. The plane was arranged to come and pick us up that day, I find out later. Late in the afternoon to take us to a group that would pay five thousand dollars cash for each of our three bodies, dead. But something happened and the plans were switched and they would be coming in the morning instead of the late afternoon. So two of the guards said well they're tied up, we'll leave them. This guard can take care of these three guys. We've got to go and connect with the people that were coming to pick up the bodies and kill them.

So arrangements were made for two of the three guards to go into town, Baghdad, they were about 40 miles out of Baghdad. Connect with them. They left the three hostages safely behind. Couldn't go anywhere. And suddenly there was a helicopter circling low over that house. And the remaining guard thought oh oh, they caught us. Boy, I'll be dead and he dropped everything, ran out the front door and left. Left the three alone. And he said to the others untie yourself. He said I started untying my arms, got them loose, untied my feet, went and helped untie the others and said we got to get out of here. And he said we walked through the front door and we just ran, ran, ran, ran, ran, ran until we reached a hill and down below was a main road. On the road we saw humvee's and we yelled and yelled and said we're American's, we're American's. We didn't look like Americans. We were in bad shape. And they stopped, guns drawn to shoot us, but they saw we were Americans. And we were free. And the next thing I knew I was on a plane to Frankfurt because my head was almost double its normal size through swelling. And he said we got to Frankfurt and we survived. Second miracle.

Third miracle, Dr. Schuller, while I was in the tent, we would often hear planes above us. And then one day sitting there we hear a plane and the next thing we hear an enormous low flying helicopter and the next thing I knew, through the

wooden roof came a bomb. It landed inches from my feet. But the tail hooked on the wood in the roof and was detached. They couldn't believe it. So they carefully had to take it in, examined by all the engineers, the pin was perfect, it was in the right spot, it was not bent, the fuel to explode the spark was perfect. There was nothing, absolutely nothing wrong. But the question is why didn't it go off? Nobody could figure that out. The commanding general said that's a miracle. And when he left, not many days ago, they gave him something that he could take home. A piece of wood. I wanted to show it, but it cannot be seen. It cannot be seen because the enemy as well as the friendly people, our troops, see this Hour of Power, its seen every single Sunday morning by so many of them, and its not only seen Sunday mornings in English, its seen Sunday mornings in German. And it's seen mid week, he said, I watched it every Sunday morning, Dr. Schuller. This whole past year I watched it. And in all these times of tension, I couldn't get out of my mind the picture of you praying for me, your face was serene, very quiet, it's very loving, it was even a little hint of a smile. And that gave me faith. And that faith kept me alive. I never got depressed like many did.

Then he showed me a piece of wood that long, that wide, all broken edged. A metal plaque with the sentence from the commanding general, "This is a mark of a miracle bomb. It fell inches from" and then his name. "It did not go off. We have to believe in God." Signed the autograph of the commanding general of the regiment. He said Dr. Schuller those are three of my miracles and I'm alive and I had to come back here and tell you to thank all those people who've been praying for me and everybody else that's out there. I'm proud to have done what I did. Our goals were always noble and honorable. So Dr. Schuller, thank you. Always he could imagine the cross on the top of the tower of hope. The cross in 2000 years has become the symbol of faith. And the Christians believe you might be crucified on a cross, whatever suffering you go through, and finally death. Yield to cling to the cross. That's the promise of God that the worst will always turn into the best. There will be an Easter. Hold onto the faith.

Yes, why is the cross the chosen symbol of the largest faith in the world? Because it says there is a higher power. And this higher power came and died for us. Somehow the suffering on the cross makes it possible for a holy Jesus to forgive anybody for their sins if we just accept Him my love. Hallelujah, Amen.

#### CHORALE RESPONSE - "My Eternal King"

And so I love You and will love, and in Your praise will sing; Solely because You are my God and my Eternal King!

#### BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: Now, make a decision. What did you come here for? Not just to be entertained. Make a decision. Accept the cross, embrace it, you have a choice. It's a faith that turns people into profound people and persons. You can't top it. Just make a decision while I give the benediction.

Now may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you and may God give you His peace in your going out and in your coming in, in your lying down and in your rising up, in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears until you come to stand before Jesus in that day in which there is no sunset and no dawning, Amen.