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HOUR OF POWER OF 06.07.08

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: From the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, stay tuned for this historic 2000th telecast of the Hour of Power with Robert Schuller.

RHS: This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

OPENING SENTENCE - RHS

RHS: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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!

WELCOME - RAS

RAS: Good morning! And welcome to the 2000th broadcast for the Hour of Power. And if you want to applaud that, you may. That's an accomplishment. And so we are very, very honored to be able to have my father with us for this amazing event of 2000 broadcasts. I'm here as well, and then my son is here and he's going to be delivering the message, Robert Vernon Schuller and so it's going to be a wonderful morning today. It's because we are actually celebrating our past, we're rejoicing in our present and we're believing in our future. So if you want to take a moment right now and welcome those who are standing next to you and behind you, would you please reach out to one another and allow the love of God to flow through you and share His love with one another. God loves you and so do I. God loves you dad, and so do I.

RHS: Thank you.

RAS: And so oh Lord, we thank You that Your love abounds. That You love us and because You love us, we can love others. And we thank You for Your miracles, for being in the hand of this ministry for 2000 broadcasts as we have reached out to touch hearts and souls and minds, and develop the love of Jesus Christ in and around the world. And so we thank You Lord and we praise Your name always and forever, amen.

ANTHEM – Cathedral Choir, CCHS Choir & CCA Academy Chorus - "Gloria"

Gloria! Glory to God in the highest. Wisdom, strength and power, honor, might, and praise be Yours forever. Bright and morning star, Healer and Provider, You are Love everlasting. Mighty, Holy God! Prince of Peace and King of kings immortal.

Clothed in majesty, nothing is impossible to those who trust Him. Reigning on the throne, faithful and unfailing love forever. Mansions, streets of gold, given to believers, glorious life everlasting. Shepherd, Savior, Friend, Hope, forgiveness, joy and love, all freely.

Crowned with many crowns, He who is and was and is to come in glory. Christ, Messiah, Lamb is worthy! Wonderful Counselor and Lord of all! Refuge in the

storm, slow to anger, rich in mercy, hope for tomorrow. He who dwells on high, blessings, joy and peace to those who praise Him.

Gloria! Gloria! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo. For He alone is worthy! Gloria, glory to God in the highest. Wisdom, strength and power, honor, might, and praise be Yours forever. Glory to God on high!

VIDEO TESTIMONIAL – JAMES RICHARDS

JAMES: When I was at the lowest point in my life, I turned the television set on and I heard a chap called Dr. Robert Schuller and he was saying tough times never last, but tough people do. And I thought wow; I need to hear that message. And I gave my heart to Jesus Christ. The first thing my wife Yvonne and I did was we joined the church. It was an amazing thing. We found it such an open church to be involved with. They encouraged us to get involved in leadership. And I was eventually ordained as a pastor. Someone in the church came to us and said would you be able to help these people in Pakistan that need bibles. And we found that not only did they need bibles but they needed the help to form them into a church. We also found that there are millions of people that are trapped in degrading poverty and the number one reason for their poverty is their illiteracy. So besides starting our first church, we also started our first school. And all this we ran from the Crystal Cathedral. And so now we have five churches, we have five Christian schools. The Crystal Cathedral has 1500 members on fire for Jesus Christ in the rural areas of Pakistan. And so we continue the message of the Hour of Power that God loves you and so do I. And we're seeing the difference and it's growing and growing and growing.

DON NEUEN INTRODUCES MENNONITE MEN'S CHORUS

DON: I can really say, you know, the ministers say this. I don't get to say it very often but we have an incredible service for you. The first service was as exciting as you could ever hope for and I'm sure this will be, too. We have with us this morning Southwest Mennonite Men's Chorus, a hundred and eighty men from throughout California, singing beautiful sacred music for you. They have three purposes: One – to glorify God, two – to encourage men singing, and third – to raise money for overseas relief. So far they've raised three hundred a sixty thousand dollars. You guys are doing great! We thank you for being here with us this morning, yes, right.

As a side note, I think I should tell you that Jim Penner, the Executive Producer of our Hour of Power, and his mother Neva Penner, who's our program manager and your minister of music, were all raised in the Mennonite church. And the Mennonite's really sing. In our church when we grew up, everybody read music and sang four part harmony on all the hymns. It was grand and that heritage of great singing still lives today with these guys and will be with us for a lifetime. Gentlemen, welcome to you. We look forward to your singing. Thank you for being here.

ANTHEM – WEST COAST MENNONITE MEN'S CHORUS - "Great is the Lord Almighty"

The Lord reigns. He is a mighty God. The Lord God reigns. The Lord reigns. He is a mighty God. The Lord God reigns. Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed. Great is the Lord Almighty, He is God Supreme. Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed. Great is the Lord. Great is the Lord.

When the children of Israel came to the brink, He led them through, letting Pharaoh sink. Then the children were dancing as old Pharaoh sank down lifting up a mighty, joyful sound, singing, great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed! Great is the Lord Almighty, He is God Supreme! Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed! Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

When the children of God came up to Jericho town, the Lord said, "Children, let's walk around!" So for seven whole days they walked around that great wall, 'til the Lord said, "Shout and watch if fall, Children!" Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed! Great is the Lord Almighty, He is God Supreme! Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed! Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

The Lord reigns! He is a mighty God! The Lord God reigns! The Lord reigns! He is a mighty God! The Lord God reigns! When the children were dying and lost in their sin, my God died and He rose again! And I've been rejoicing since He took my blame. I thank You, Jesus, praise Your name!

Singing, great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed! Great is the Lord Almighty, He is God Supreme! Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed! Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed! Great is the Lord Almighty, He is God Supreme! Great is the Lord Almighty, He is Lord, He is God indeed! Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

RHS TALKS OF BULLETIN FROM FIRST SUNDAY TELECAST

RHS: I'm holding in my hand the bulletin 38 years ago. The cover is the Tower of Hope and this congregation. And in it, it says at the top: televangelism report. It's the first time the word televangelism was used. And here's what the bulletin said 35 years ago: a message from Robert Schuller.

This is a history making Sunday for Jesus Christ. We are videotaping our 9:30 service to begin a great outreach across the Southland. In less than 30 days, the 12 million southern Californians from Santa Barbara to San Diego will be able to join this church at worship over television. What can you do? Number one: pray that God will use this enormous outreach to change the Southland in the 70's. Number two: visualize the empty lives in homes, hospitals, hotels and pray for these invisible visitors. Consider prayerfully becoming a sponsor of this program. You will be the only sponsor. This is a venture of faith. Yours to save America for Christ in the 70's.

That was my morning announcement in the bulletin 38 years ago. And God surely has answered and used your prayers. Look what you have done. This is not my ministry, its God's ministry using all of us. Thank You Lord.

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 89 - RHS

RHS: Now, hear these magnificent words of praise to God from Psalm 89:

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare, God, that Your love stands firm forever, that You have established Your faithfulness in heaven itself. The heavens praise Your wonders, Your faithfulness too in the assembly of the holy ones. For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings? In the council of the holy ones God is

greatly trusted; He is more awesome than all who surround Him. Who is like You, Lord God Almighty? You Lord, are mighty and Your faithfulness surrounds You. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You, who walk in the light of Your presence, oh Lord. They rejoice in Your name all day long.

This is the word of God.

VIDEO TESTIMONIAL – JEANNE BICE

JEANNE: My life was an absolutely charmed life. I had everything that there was to have in this world. And then one day my husband dropped dead at my feet. I had to figure out at 40 years old how to make a living. And I didn't have the foggiest idea how to do it. I really believed that I needed a man to take care of me, that I could not do it. But Dr. Schuller and his son, who showed me that there is a man that can run my life and it's God. And every Sunday he would say, live your dream. Get out there and go for it.

And I had a factory; I manufacture women's clothing. I could take this product to the street corner and sell it at a flea market and that's exactly what I did. So then one day he said, okay, you've done that, now lets move on to the next step. And that week our cable channel started something I'd never seen before and it was a home shopping network. And we've been there 13 years.

If you can listen to the Schuller's, they will open a world to you that you never knew existed. Your life will be full of wonder and joy.

INTERVIEW – DR. MICHAEL GUILLEN

RAS: ROBERT A. SCHULLER MG: MICHAEL GUILLEN

RAS: Today, it is my honor to welcome back to the Crystal Cathedral a dear friend of this ministry, Michael Guillen. We first met Michael when he was the science correspondent for ABC including 20/20. And he came and shared how science and religion actually do connect. Since then Michael has been here many times and through it all we have seen the hand of God work in Michael's life and the life of his family. And here to share it personally with us, please welcome Michael Guillen. Michael, God loves you, and so do we.

MG: Thank you, Bob. Thank you, God bless you. Thank you brothers and sisters, thank you.

RAS: Well when we asked you to come and be our guest here today, on the number 2000..

MG: Right.

RAS: ..you said yes, right away.

MG: I said let me think about it for a microsecond. Yes!

RAS: Yes!

MG: First of all I'm tremendously honored to be here to help celebrate the 2000th telecast. I hate to admit that much time has gone by because this ministry has ministered to my adulthood more than any other. And that's a mouthful when you consider that my own, as you know, my grandfather's and my father were all Spanish speaking Pentecostal ministers and I was raised in that tradition and my paternal grandfather in particular just meant a great deal to me. But this ministry, Bob, has been with my family and I through thick and thin, through all the ups and downs we all experience in our lifetimes. I remember when my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 45 this ministry was there to comfort her and to comfort us. And when that disease took her away, this

ministry was there to comfort her in her last days. This ministry was there when my father was diagnosed with melanoma. And this ministry was there comforting him in his last days, and us as well. When Laurel, my wife and I were struggling to have a family, this ministry was there comforting us and guiding us. And I remember one specific incident, Bob, when we were in the throes of this crisis in our lives, I wanted to reach out to your dad for some advice and some prayer. And I remember calling the main number and they said well, he's been invited by the Pope to be in Vatican to watch Mother Teresa be beatified. And they put me through to him all the way to the Vatican..

RAS: Wow.

MG: ..and there he was and it was amazing to me that the ministry was there, even in that time when I'm sure it wasn't convenient to receive a call from me. This ministry has been with my family when our struggle to have a family had a happy ending. And I can only tell you, Bob, that I'm not alone. There's nothing special about me. I've seen this ministry minister to tens of millions of people. You've seen just a small sampling on the video clips today, but I remember one instance, for example, you and your dad came to Boston. And it was a big event.

RAS: I remember that.

MG: Do you remember that?

RAS: Yes I do.

MG: And we were invited to sit at the head table and I remember your dad not even being able to eat his dinner because there was a line of people just wanting to thank him for all the things that this ministry had done in their lives. I could go on and on and on, but I can tell you quite honestly that I thank the Lord every single day that this ministry came into my life. Because I can't imagine what my life would have been without it, Bob, and I just want to thank your dad and you and Robbie, the whole Schuller family, the staff and all the other ministers, and every single one of you brothers and sisters who have been there through it all. I just want to thank you on this special occasion. God bless you all. Thank you Bob. Thank you.

RAS: We've got a box for you. There's more where that came from.

MG: Before I get through this, I may need the whole box.

RAS: Need another one? There you go. I'll take one too, just in case I need one as well.

MG: Oh but that's the beauty, right? We've cried and..

RAS: It is, it's a..

MG: ..we've laughed together, and that's what life is about and that's what this ministry has been through the medium of television, which I know so well, you've been able to touch the lives of many people all around the world in the most intimate way and it's really wonderful.

RAS: Well I know that you have a beautiful son.

MG: Yes.

RAS: And what a tremendous gift from God that is, and a..

MG: Yes.

RAS: ..and a wonderful wife. Your wife is here today. Laurel, where is she?

MG: Laurel and my son, if you guys want to stand up.

RAS: Laurel?

MG: Just..

RAS: There's Laurel..

MG: There's the miracle.

RAS: And..

MG: I'd love to tell the story.

RAS: Tell the story, please.

MG: I'd love to tell the story because this is a story of God's mercy and love. When my wife and I got married, you know we expected, like with any marriage, there would be rough spots along the way, right? You don't expect the perfect marriage. But never in my wildest dreams, Bob, did I ever expect that having children would have been a problem, among the problems we would face. I always just assumed like most young couples when they get married, that you know you would have children, and I wanted a big family. I was the last male in the Guillen family and so naturally I wanted a son to pass on the name. It was very deep for me. So it was a shock to us when we found out we weren't able to have children and being in the public that I am, I have access to all the best doctors in the country. We were living in Boston at the time and so we went to see the biggest infertility doctor in town. And I remember he put us through all these tests then he called us into his office and he said well, he said, I have some good news and bad news for you. He said the good news is you both check out medically. You're just fine. He said the bad news is you have what's called unexplained infertility. And I thought to myself, well gee, thanks a lot. That sheds a whole lot of light on the problem.

RAS: Yeah!

MG: And then I got his bill and I thought whoa, thanks!

RAS: Gee!

MG: I could have said that even before coming here. But little did we know that that was the beginning of one of the most painful but ultimately joyous experiences of our life and it brought us close to the Lord and it turned out to be such a blessing. We did all the things that a well educated modern couple would do. We had all the medical procedures, up to a point. There were things that we didn't believe in, but nothing worked. And so we ran out of options. Our minds just couldn't think of anything else to do. And then I remember one Sunday, driving home from church; this was back in Boston, and both of us simultaneously were convicted with the same feeling – we had to adopt. And of course then all the fears and all the trepidations and the million and one questions, but the Lord kept us going. And in the end, He delivered the most beautiful son any father could possibly have. And there's no way that we could have a child more like ourselves and we could love more than the son that God delivered to us. And every time, every morning when I wake him up to prepare him for school, I look into his face and I see the eyes of Jesus staring back at me and saying, "fear not, for I am here with you always." And I see the love of Jesus and His mercy in my son's eyes.

RAS: Last time you were here, I understand you were ordained.

MG: Oh yes.

RAS: Has that had any impact on your life?

MG: Has that had an impact? You know, many of you know I was born in the Mexican barrio of East LA, and little did I know that my life would become entwined in the life of this precious ministry but it did. And gradually, gradually as I've just described, this ministry has been a part of my life, all culminating in that moment when you and your father ordained me. And it was remarkable timing, Bob, because it was at a time when I had just written my third book called "Can a Smart Person Believe in God?" And I remember when I had told my agents I was going to write this book, I had already written two best selling math books, and I told them I was going to write this, they kind of looked at me as if I

had three heads. Can a smart person believe in God? Why do you want to write a book like that? You're a scientist. And I said this is not a book that I want to write, this is a book that the Lord wants me to write.

RAS: You had to write. Yes.

MG: And what has happened when you ordained me, is that that book and that ordination has allowed me now to realize what I believe is my destiny; the destiny that was for shadowed by my father and my two grandfathers, and that is to have a ministry of my own. And from this day on, Bob, my pledge to the Lord, before you all here and now, is to do nothing but to serve the Lord to the day they bury me in the ground, I've served my career but when I surrendered my life to the Lord, I intend to serve Him for the remainder of my day.

RAS: Michael, thank you. We've produced a bible here, we call it our Power for Life Bible but we want to give this to you right now as our way of saying thank you to you for coming, for being a minister for this church, for continuing to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all you meet and being a positive example for young men and women around the world who are in academia studying science today. And for that we want to say thank you. And I want to give you this bible..

MG: Thank you Bob.

RAS: ..God loves you and..

MG: Thank you so much.

RAS: ..so do we.

MG: Laurel and I will read this and it's yet one more gift from a ministry that has changed my life and changed the lives of millions around the world. God bless you and this is just the beginning. This is..

RAS: Amen.

MG: ..just the beginning brothers and sisters.

RAS: Amen.

MG: Let's go into the future boldly.

RAS: Yes we will. Thank you, Michael.

MG: God bless you, God bless you.

RAS: God loves you and so do we.

SOLO – WINTLEY PHIPPS – “How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands has made. I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder; Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

And when I think of God, His Son not sparing, gave Him to die, I scarce can take it in. That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! And I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, “My God, how great Thou art!”

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art! How great, how great, how great, how great Thou art!

RVS THANK YOU TO WINTLEY PHIPPS

RVS: Wintley, fantastic job my friend. Great job.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT V. SCHULLER

"Believe in Your Future"

RVS: Good morning, it's a real privilege, I have to be honest, to be here and speak to you. They called me on the phone a couple of months ago, and said hey we want you to come and speak at the Cathedral. And I said okay great, sounds good. And then they said, and by the way, this is the 2000th Hour of Power episode, so I was like okay, okay. And we want you to speak about the future. All right. And you're going to be there with your dad and your grandpa. And its like all right man, you know what, okay. So I'm here. I'm set to be here and it's really a privilege. And no it honestly, I mean, in all reality, this is really a huge honor and a privilege for me to be able to come here and to speak not just to this church, but to the 19 million people all over the world in 120 countries to just say one thing and that is to believe in your future. Would you bow your heads with me, I'd like to pray. Spirit of the living God that lives and moves and is alive in everything, we pray God that You would be present with us here. Lord, speak to our hearts we pray in the name of Jesus. Reveal to us the things we need to change. Inspire us, mold us and form us, push us out of our comfort zones, change us, make us more like Jesus. I pray God less of me and more of You, I pray for Your words in this place, this morning, in Christ' name, Amen.

You have your bibles, Jeremiah 29:11, famous verse. Take these words as words from God to you, personally; A prophecy, a word of knowledge, to you specifically right now. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." If there's anything about our world it is that it is changing. Can I get an amen? If you're from the South, I want you to say amen because it's hot. Say amen! Amen! Man it's a changing world. We have new technology. We have I-Pods. We have I-Mac's, we have I-Phones, we have YouTube, we have MySpace, we have FaceBook, we have new cars and freeways and buildings, intersections, growing cities, changing morals, changing worldviews. Post modernism. We have a world that is growing and moving constantly and in the midst of this world, we have new and better communication and yet we still remain not truly connected. We're busy but unproductive. Entertained but bored with life. Surrounded by people but infinitely lonely. And it is into this world; into this world that we ask the question what does the future really hold? Is the future really something I can believe in? Is it just going to be more technology, more speed and less life? Is that my future? Is that what the future holds for me? And God speaks to His church and He calls us to a grander future. It transcends technology, it transcends changing moral norms, it touches us in our lives, in our jobs, in our relationships, in our families, right where we are right now, here and now, God gives us a promise: "For I know the plans I have for you; Plans for a hope and for a future." That's what God says to His people.

If you are the guy or the girl in your job and its dead end and you ask yourself am I going to be here ten years from now and I don't want to be, if you are a single parent this word is for you. If you are retired or elderly and you feel like you know your life is over, this word is for you. If you are in a cubicle, this word is for you. If you feel empty, if you feel like you're never going to connect, you feel like you're never going to be happy, if you feel like you don't have a future, you don't know where you're going, this word is for you. The word of the

Lord says to you I have a mission, I have a quest, I have a purpose, a calling, a story, an epic tale that you are the main character of, that I am calling you to. And the word of God comes. It comes and it speaks to the heart, if only we would listen and He calls us to that quest, that mission, He calls us to be a missional people. Missional people.

Whenever God speaks to people in the bible and even in our world today, He doesn't call them to narcissism, nor does He call them to selfishness. He calls them to live a life beyond themselves. God revealed Himself to Abraham and said I want to make you the father of many nations and through you I will bless the world. He called him; spoke to him, calling him to something greater than just his little tribe in the middle of a desert, in the middle of nowhere. God spoke to Moses in a burning bush, a man who was a murderer, rejected from Egypt, walked into a cave and God says "take your shoes off, you're in a holy place." And says "I need you to go to Pharaoh and tell him to let My people go." God speaks to Joshua and says, "possess the land." And in the same way God spoke to Martin Luther King, when he said "there is injustice in the world and I want you to look beyond yourself and beyond your congregation to embrace passive resistance, and bring civil freedom in America." And he spoke the same thing to Mother Teresa when she was in a privileged school, and she looked out of her window and saw kids dying on the street, God called her, called her beyond herself, beyond her personal goals into something greater. And this is the voice of God. The voice of God beyond just my little things today, God calls you to a mission, purpose, a calling, something greater, something grand. And it's different and unique for all of us and if all of us can just hear it. If all of us could hear the voice of our future that God speaks to us everything, everything would be different.

I think of Isaiah. Isaiah, to me, when I read Isaiah chapter 6 and his calling to ministry, he seems like just a normal guy to me. He seems like a guy that has a decent job or whatever, he's doing life, and he's in this temple and all of a sudden God shows up. And says the train of his robe filled the temple with glory and there were seraphim and angels and smoke and lightening. And in the midst of this, God shouts out not to Isaiah but to all the people: "who will go for Me? Whom shall I send?" I always picture Isaiah as being that guy who just wants a purpose, a goal in his life. And like with all of his heart, and this is what the bible says, he says, "Here I am Lord! Lord, send me! Send me, God!" And this is the voice of the human spirit that cries out to a God who says who will go for us? Our spirits want to say yes. Our spirits want to say yes. They want to say send me, God. They want to say send me into the dark places. Send me to hurting people. Send me to people that are suffering, send me to people that are less fortunate than myself, but it is the world that says nah man, you need more money. You need more stuff. You need you time. But it's God that says move beyond yourself. It's Jesus who is the ultimate fulfillment of this ideal.

Jesus said, "If you want to gain life, you must lose your own. You must give it up for My sake." Jesus was the greatest human life in history. He was God in the flesh, no doubt about it. But in His life we see the perfect way to have what Jesus called joy; joy that will last. Its amazing to me Jesus being the most glorious and perfect being ever, and not only that, the representation of who God really is, because it overwhelms that nagging sense that God wants to get back at me, or that God wants to punish me because in Jesus you just don't see that. You see a Jesus who guides, who corrects. You see a Jesus who embraces, a Jesus who teaches, who loves, you know? You know, and this is kind of funny. Jesus sort of had an eating ministry. I'm serious. He had an eating ministry. You know, in

Christ' time, to eat with somebody was to call them your equal. That's why kings would sit at elevated tables away from the court. Jesus, the king of kings, would eat with the lonely, the forgotten, the rejected, the lepers, you know? Enough so that His disciples, His followers would say Rabbi, don't you know who that man is? Rabbi, don't you know who she is, what she does for a living, Rabbi? Rabbi called those people to His table. His life and His ministry were unmatched. He blessed, He healed, He raised the dead, He changed social structures, He affected the government. He changed people's lives and everywhere He went things changed for the better.

It's interesting because we think that this Jesus doesn't really call us normal people. He calls guys like Robert Schuller, right? Well Robert Schuller was a farm boy, but it's easy to believe that God calls people who are born into privilege. But Jesus called fisherman, you know, to follow Him and be His apostles. He asked a rich young punk to be His apostle. He invited accountants, He invited hookers, He invited eunuchs to follow Him and to be like Him and to learn from Him. He called these people to be like Him and in calling them gave them a future that they could believe in and in this moment, the same Jesus by His holy spirit, in this room here and now, speaks to you. Wherever you are in your life, man, follow Me. Follow Me and I will lead you to a life, a joy that is everlasting, it never ends, you know? And this is why we as believers are called to enter into discipleship. Discipleship is something that is kind of thrown around a lot. A lot of Christians when they think of the great commission, for example, which is Matthew 28, it usually comes out of them thinking something like go into all the world, preaching the gospel. Isn't it? But that's not what Jesus says in the great commission. Jesus says to His apostles, "Go into all the world making disciples, baptizing them in the Trinitarian reality and teaching them to obey everything I've commanded you." You see living in the Jesus way is the best way to live life. It's so much more than just believing theology and getting into heaven although that is great and by no means would I ever diminish that gift that God gives us. There is so much more. How many of you who have been raised in the church felt that the day you received Christ your journey ended? I'm here to tell you the day you received Christ, your journey begins! It begins as a path of a discipleship. Dallas Willard calls this, he likes to use the word becoming Christ' apprentice, being His apprentice.

I remember when I was in the garage with my dad one time, and he said hand me an Allen wrench and I said what's an Allen wrench? And he just, you know like turned on me like what's an Allen wrench, you know, this kind of thing and he said you know what, you know what my son, you need to learn your tools. And so he sent me to Rancho Capistrano where I worked as a maintenance guy, and I worked under this man, a wonderful man named Tim, as sort of an apprentice. And Tim would take me around to different jobs. He would teach me how to put locks on the doors and make keys and build things and paint things. And he would always say you know do it right the first time. He would teach me to fix things and build things and I started with little projects and every summer, for like three years, I made \$6 an hour and I was an apprentice to Tim, to learn how to build and fix things. And by the end of that time, I was making master keys, building staircases and sound equipment. And I watched that over the years, of being Tim's apprentice, it changed me. It gave me confidence, gave me a guide, showed me how to live, to lead my life. That's why we as believers are called beyond so much more than just debating eschatological theology. Its about being an apprentice to Jesus, looking like Him, acting like Him, inviting hookers and eunuchs, tax collectors, business men, the lonely, the forgotten, the blessed,

whoever to your table in the spirit of love, acceptance, change. This is what Jesus was about. The greatest commandment He said was love. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, all your strength and love your neighbor as yourself." And this is the message of Christianity.

And so we get to the 2000th episode, what does this have to do with 2000 years of Hour of Power. Oh not years, hey who knows. I know. What does this have to do with the 2000th Hour of Power episode and I'll get there. You know when my grandpa was my age he wasn't trying to build a church necessarily for all those people who were used to church. He was like Jesus: he went into the dark places. He went to the place called a drive in movie theater. You know he got so much heat and junk and criticism for that because he went to what they called back in those days the passion pit. People would go to make out in their cars. And he invited people who were not used to church, who didn't like church, to come as you are in the family car, right? And through this the ministry thrived and when television, the new universal medium came, he said we can do something with this. We can reach beyond just Orange County man; we can reach the whole world. And so there he was. He decided to reach the whole world. And here we are, years later, proclaiming a message that is true to the nature and the life of Jesus Christ. One that believes in the future, that believes in possibility and purpose and hope.

And my dad now, I have to tell you; you guys are so lucky to have the senior pastor right here. He is an incredible visionary and an incredible man, and I'm ever half the man that my dad is, I'll be a great man. I'll be honest with you. My dad continues this vision; the original purpose of this ministry to go into China, to go into Africa, to go into South America, to promote justice over the world, to bring wheelchairs to people that can't walk. And he sees a newer universal medium, which is, anybody guess? Just say it if you got it. Internet, come on, hello. My dad sees the Internet. He says you know what? We can use this. We can use this to get across the world using free messages to promote the message of Jesus Christ to the world. And I have to tell you, it's easy to believe in the future of this ministry. I believe in the future of this ministry because I believe in you. All of you are a part of it. Just sitting here, man. Even if you're a visitor, you're a part of this. You're a part of this journey, this conversation, this dialogue. You're here and now. And I will tell you something, that this message, the message of hope and life of Jesus Christ, that you really do have a future for you. This message, the gospel of Jesus Christ we will continue to preach forever. My family, my friends, the elders of this ministry, the leaders of this ministry, the eagles, and the sparrows, everyone that is a part of this ministry will continue to proclaim the words and the life of Jesus Christ until our last dying breath. And that is the future.

The future. The future is bright regardless of our changing, rapid world because the future has us: a people who are human, who make mistakes, who are messed up but we come together and we say you know what Christ is the center of our lives and we can change and we can be better. Amen.

HYMN - "We Build a New Tomorrow"

We build a new tomorrow, we draw the pattern clear, we make our plans with wisdom, for God is always here. Our thinking makes our future, our actions pave the way; We build a new tomorrow, on plans we make today. Alleluia, alleluia, alle - alleluia!

BENEDICTION - RAS

RAS: Thank you Bobby for a fabulous message. How many people here think we have a future? Yeah, Amen to that. So with that, let me give you a closing benediction:

And now may the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts and your minds with His knowledge and His reality and His goodness and may His love flow through you and may everyone you touch this week feel His love through you, amen.