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HOURLY OF POWER OF 31.08.2008

PROGRAM OPENING - VOICE OVER

From the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, welcome to the Hour of Power with Robert Schuller, presenting the face and voice of positive Christianity to the world, now in our 30th year.

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. Hallelujah! Amen!

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

Good Morning! (AUDIENCE RESPONSE: "GOOD MORNING.") This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! We are waiting, we are listening, we are expecting, we stand on spiritual tiptoes to catch a glimpse. And oh God, in this hour we are connecting with you. And there is a peace in this Presence. There is a power and oh Lord, surely at the end of the day we shall say it was so true. This was the day that you made to bless us. Hallelujah. Amen.

HYMN - "Yes, God is Good"

Yes, God is good, in earth and sky, From ocean depth and spreading wood; Ten thousand voices seem to cry, "God made us all, and God is good." The merry birds prolong the strain, Their song with every day renewed; And balmy air, and falling rain,
Each softly whisper, "God is good."
Yes, "God is good," all nature says, "God made us all and God is good;" So we, in louder notes of praise, Will sing for joy that "God is good!"

SCRIPTURE - Psalm 145 - RAS

RAS: You may be seated. Hear these words of David which we find in Psalm 145.

I will exalt You, my God and King. I will praise Your name forever and ever. Every day, I will praise You and extol Your name forever and ever. Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise.

His greatness no one can fathom. One generation will command Your works to another. They will tell of Your mighty acts. They will speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty and I will meditate on Your wonderful words. They will tell of the power of Your awesome works and I will proclaim Your great deeds. They will celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyful singing Your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and compassionate. Slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all.

May God touch your heart with this reading.

ANTHEM - "My Eternal King"

My God, I love You; Not because I hope for heaven thereby,

Nor yet because who love You not may die eternally. When, O my Jesus, You did me upon the cross embrace; You did me upon the cross embrace; When, O my Jesus, You did me upon the cross embrace; For me did bear the nails, the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace, And manifold disgrace; Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, Should I not love You well? Not for the hope of winning heaven, Or of escaping hell; Not with the hope of something gained, Not seeking a reward; But as You always loved me, O everloving Lord! And so I love You, and will love, And in Your praise will sing; Solely because You are my God, and my Eternal King.

INTERVIEW - MICHAEL GUILLEN - RHS

RHS: ROBERT HAROLD SCHULLER MG: MICHAEL GUILLEN

RHS: Well, I'm very proud to welcome back America's favorite television scientist, Michael Guillen. Welcome back, Michael Guillen.

MG: Thank you, Dr. Schuller. It's so great to be here again this morning. Thank you.

RHS: Thank you. Hey...you're enjoying yourself?

MG: Oh boy, never a boring moment. You know, the key note speech on Thursday night to the International Men's Conference was a little nervous but the reception was terrific and just enjoyed myself tremendously.

RHS: Terrific. Listen. In fact that same morning I saw you on television, I think you were talking about cellular phones and microwave ovens.

MG: Oh yes, that's right.

RHS: Tell...tell me...

MG: That's right, I ...

RHS: ...what's happening.

MG: Well, on Good Morning America, I guess it was the morning before.

RHS: Yes.

MG: We were talking about cell phones and the latest research seems to indicate that cell phones, which give off very low levels, very low intensity, microwaves. That's how they're able to communicate one with the other, seem to have an affect on us physiologically. That is to say, one study seemed to indicate that it, now I have to be very careful how I say this... I don't want to scare anybody, but it does seem as though the microwaves given off by cell phones cook our brains just a little bit, warm them up just a tad. Just a little bit now, enough to get the blood flow going a little bit more and to increase our reaction time. So, that's great. Cell phones, when you're exposed to the microwaves, increase your reaction time but there because the microwaves are cooking your brain a little bit. And, but, but just so as nobody panics out there, the microwaves given off by the cell phones are about a thousand times less powerful than the ones we use to cook our food. So when I say cook, I mean at very, very, very low level, but it's a problem.

RHS: Do you have one?

MG: Yes I do. Actually...

RHS: ... do you use it ...

MG: ... Charlie Gibson asked me the very same question ...

RHS: ... is that right ...

MG: ... and my answer is yes I do, but sparingly. And that was my advice to our viewers. In view of this research I.I want to warn people to use it as little as you possibly can ...

RHS: ... are you ...

MG: ... More research is yet to come out. I really don't want to panic you guys.

RHS: How about the microwave?

MG: Well that's the worry. Well the microwave ovens are pretty well insulated, not to worry about that.

RHS: Okay.

MG: You know and as a scientist who happens to be a Christian, I'll tell you what a story like that means to me. Now I don't discuss that on the air but afterwards when I'm mulling a story over like that, Dr. Schuller. I think to myself a couple of things.

First of all, it kind of reinforces the notion of the imperfection of man. No matter what we try to do, and the cell phone is a marvelous invention, there are always these unintended consequences. I mean, we could do a whole 30 minutes on that. We can't. I mean, you know computers, there was the anticipation with computers was that we would use less paper. We're using more paper than ever before. Football equipment was meant to prevent injuries. Well, we have more football injuries more than ever before because people wearing the padding are emboldened to hit each other a little harder. And so we end up with more energy...injuries. On and on and on there are these unintended consequences. So for me as a Christian I think there's the imperfection of man always rearing itself.

And the second thing it teaches me is this, Dr. Schuller. Can you imagine trying to explain to Aristotle, more than 2,000 years ago, the cell phone? I mean, so you say to Aristotle...

"You see, you talk into this little device and you can talk to somebody thousands of miles away."

RHS: Alright.

MG: He would have thought it's impossible, right?

RHS: Right.

MG: And so what that teaches me is that what science considers impossible today, you know, like what's in the Bible. Very often times an atheistic scientist or a real skeptic will look at the Bible and say, "How is God possible? How are all those miracles possible?" Well, in the same way maybe 2,000 years from now science will ultimately discover how those things are possible just as we discovered 2,000 years after Aristotle how to make a cell phone. So it shows the changeable nature of science. Very little of what we believed in science 2,000 years ago is true any more. They've all been replaced by new ideas, new inventions. And I wonder, 2,000 years from now, how much different the scientific view of the world will be. And I bet you it'll be more in conformity with the Bible than every before. Because that's the trend we're going in. That...you know, that's what blows me away. That you would think that the more we learn in science the more the scientific view of the world will diverge from the view that is presented to us in the Bible. But just the opposite is true.

RHS: Exactly.

MG: Oh a...listen...

RHS: A...

MG: ...You just take the creation of the universe.

RHS: Yeah.

MG: We thought for the longest time in the...we believed in...scientifically in the steady state theory of the universe, which held this. The universe has always been and always will. That was the steady state theory and that was the most favored theory in science right up until only 1940. Only 50 years ago did we get evidence to suggest to us that the universe is actually expanding. And therefore, by

extrapolation, we felt well, if the universe is expanding that all the galaxies are moving away from one another, it must imply that there was a moment back in time when they were all together like this and the suddenly exploded outward. Right? And that was the first time scientifically that we have any evidence at all that there was a beginning to the universe. But it's been in the Bible all along telling us there was a beginning.

RHS: "In the beginning..."

MG: Yes, and that's what I find more and more in science. That as we learn more and more in science the view of the world, scientifically, converges, doesn't diverge, from the view sketched out in the Bible. In many ways I think of the Bible as a pencil sketch of the world. It's not detailed. Religion makes a lousy science, but science makes a lousy religion.

RHS: That's very good.

MG: And so...right. Right. And the world view we see sketched, a pencil sketch, in the Bible is now being filled in detail by science. But they're not in conflict.

RHS: No.

MG: They're working one with the other.

RHS: Wonderful.

MG: And that's what I find so exciting.

RHS: Gee, that's fantastic. Fantastic.

MG: Yes.

RHS: What is the future? You look ahead then in the next century, the next millennium, you see science and religion working together, helping each other.

MG: I do and I hope, and I hope so, Dr. Schuller. I know your message for the new millennium is to bring peace among people. Blessed are the peacemakers. Am I correct?

RHS: Yes, absolutely.

MG: Because we had dinner and we discussed that.

RHS: Yes we did. You heard me loud and clear.

MG: And my message is complimentary to yours. Because bringing peace among people is extremely important and what I'm speaking about is bringing peace within each of ourselves. Peace between our mind, which tends to be skeptical, whose urge is to be skeptical and our spirit whose urge is to believe. And I believe as we get into the next century I want us to make peace between our minds, our skeptical minds, and our believing spirits. And I think then we have a better chance of being peace...at peace among ourselves, just as you wish us to be. And I'm very excited about that. In my own life I've had to do that. I was born to the son of...I'm the son and grandson of Pentecostal ministers. You know, I was destined to be a minister I suppose, but God put this crazy idea into my head and I become a theoretical physicist.

RHS: You went through...you studied at Yale?

MG: No, UCLA because I was born right here in the barrios of East Los Angeles. And then I went to UCLA and then to Cornell and got my graduate degrees, my Ph.D.s in physics, math and astronomy and then went on to Harvard to teach physics for 10 years. And now I'm at ABC News as the science editor there. But I have managed, thank God, to bring peace to my warring spirits.

RHS: How and when did that happen?

MG: Well, it's a long story, Dr. Schuller.

RHS: Well.

MG: But it was in the midst of my graduate studies. And let me just say what I discovered then was this, quite simply, that science and religion are not

competitors, as I thought and as many of you might think, as the world treats them so often. That's a big mistake, Dr. Schuller.

RHS: Absolutely. Absolutely.

MG: And I am here to tell you, Sir, that I discovered one thing. Science and religion are like 2 parents. Mind and spirit are like 2 parents. They're not competitors. My one parent teaches me to use my mind, my logic to discover things about the world which are within my 5 senses. My other parent, my spiritual parent Jesus Christ, teaches me to believe in things that lie beyond my 5 senses. Let me summarize it like this. Because of Jesus Christ, because of my spirit, I'm on a road that guarantees me that I will fully survive my death on this earth. But because of my mind and my science I am on a road that guarantees me that I will fully appreciate my life on this earth.

In other words, I'm taking the scenic road to heaven. And on my way to heaven I'm going to pass by

RHS: Wow.

MG: I'm going to pass by all the little subatomic particles and the cells and the bacteria and the planets and the asteroids and the stars, that's the science. And once I've exhausted my study of the universe Jesus Christ will be waiting for me there to usher me into another world that's even greater than that. So I am determined to stay the course on this scenic road to heaven and I want to encourage you and the young people as they move into the 21st century, make peace between your mind and spirit and take that scenic road to heaven.

RHS: Thank you. Thank you. Michael..

MG: You're very welcome...

RHS: ...God loves you, so do we. Hey.

MG: ...Dr. Schuller. Thank you. God bless you. Thank you for having me. Thank you so much.

RHS: Thank you. Thank you.

RHS: Oh, Michael. Michael, come here. I for...you have been working, you may be seated. You have been working quietly, privately, generously with your time with my daughter Carol. What's that all about?

MG: Oh boy, is that a blessing. That goes hand in hand with what we were just talking about, Dr. Schuller.

Well your daughter Carol Milner is a force of nature I'll tell you.

RHS: That she is.

MG: She talked to me about this extraordinary multi million dollar project that she's working on called the Glory of Creation which is meant to compliment your Glory of Christmas and Glory of Easter. And when she first started describing it I said, "Carol do you need some help scientifically? Because you could tell the show, you could tell the story of creation and be totally faithful to the Bible, but you could also tell the story of creation and be faithful to our most current science. And if you do it that way the story will not only speak to us believers, but it'll speak to the skeptics out there who use their minds and only are guided by science and we can say to them the story of creation is in the Bible, but our science is beginning to discover, belatedly, that what is in the Bible is absolutely true." And I can't tell you how excited I am at working about this...with this...with Carol on this project. This is a fantastic project and talk about hope for the new century.

RHS: Yeah.

MG: This is going to debut in the next century.

RHS: Yes it is.

MG: And what a way to start.

RHS: Okay.

MG: And I am so hopeful it's going to change the world in some small way.

RHS: With you helping her with all of this science...

MG: Yes.

RHS: ...and David Foster writing the music and both of you donating your services, we're on to something, right?

MG: And God watching over all of it...

RHS: Yeah.

MG: ...and guiding all of it, we can't miss.

RHS: No. Thank you, Michael.

MG: Thank you. God bless you.

ANTHEM - THE INDIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR - "The National Anthem of India" ("Jana Gana Mana")

Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka, jaya he Bharata-bhagya-vidhata Punjab-Sindhu-Gujarata-Maratha- Dravida-Utkala-Banga Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga Uchchala-Jaladhi-taranga Tava shubha name jage Tava shubha ashish maange Gahe tava jaya-gatha Jana-gana-mangala-dayaka jaya he Bharata-bhagya-vidhata Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he Jaya jaya jaya, jaya he!

ANTHEM - THE INDIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR - "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, No turning back, no turning back. Though none go with me, I still will follow, Though none go with me, I still will follow, Though none go with me, I still will follow, No turning back, no turning back. No turning back, No turning back, no turning back.

RHS - THANK YOU - THE INDIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Thank you, the choir all the way from India. Beautiful.

INTERVIEW - GLORIA KING - RHS

RHS: ROBERT HAROLD SCHULLER GK: GLORIA KING

RHS: As a part of my sermon, I'm interviewing another guest now. Her name is Gloria King. I'm preaching a series of ten messages on the ten chapters of my new book which will be in all the bookstores this week. The book's entitled "TURNING HURTS INTO HALOS." Now it includes some of the most remarkable stories and letters of people that I've ever received or I think has ever been put into print. I received this letter from a woman named Gloria King and it was so deeply moving and I could feel the honesty of it. My publisher said we've got to include it, but it's too long, it's about 8 or 9 pages. So they said cut it down. I tried and I couldn't cut it down and I'm a pretty good writer and I'm a pretty good editor. I couldn't cut anything out. I said to the editor, "You're going to have to help me on this one." And they said, "We should try to cut it down to no more than 3 or 4 pages." They called back and said, "You know, this is such a powerful piece of writing we can't cut anything out. Ask your daughter who's helping you with the book, maybe she can make it work." I asked Jean Ann. Jean Ann said,

"Oh yeah, ten pages for one letter in a book, it's too long. You can't do that Dad." I said, "Cut it down." "Sure," she said, "I can do that very well." She called back and she said, "We can't cut anything out." So here the book is out and starting on page 38 is a letter that I got from a Gloria King in Ohio. It is printed in full, unedited, exactly as I got it. I tell you when you read it, you can't stop reading it. You will cry. There will be tears of happiness and hope. She has .. had three children. This is a story about Jeff. He's passed away now. I've asked her to come, from her home in Ohio to be with us this morning so that you will get a glimpse of the stories, unbelievable stories in this book that have never been published before are true stories. Honest to God people who have turned hurts into halos. Gloria King, welcome, welcome.

GK: Thank you. That was nice, that was nice.

RHS: Tell me about Jeff. When did we meet, and how did he make his approach to me? Your son Jeff.

GK: Okay, I think it was the "Be Happy Attitudes." He had to have the book. Had to have the book. How many years?

RHS: I don't know.

GK: Long time ago. It was cold. You came to Toledo. It was raining terrible and he wanted the book. I loaded him into the wheelchair. Tough feat. We got to the mall and I'm thinking, "Oh, I hope I have enough money for the book." Stood in a long line and from nowhere a gentleman in a suit came up and said to Jeffrey, "I'm taking you up front." And he pushed him past the crowd. I don't know who the gentleman was.

RHS: A staff man, yes.

GK: Jeffrey wanted to meet you in the worst way. So I was embarrassed and I kind of stepped back and you got up and walked around the table and talked to him. I couldn't hear. You prayed with him and you've been his best friend. His best friend till his last day. Till his last day.

RHS: Wow. What was wrong with Jeffrey? Why was he in a wheelchair?

GK: Jeffrey was a spinal bifida baby so, and the extent of his affliction was so great they really gave him about 3 days. And in those days they, it was different 40 years ago. Medical things have happened that make it much better for other children. But he, there was something inside of this little child that just wanted to live. So I took him home and he managed 35 more years. RHS: Wow.

GK: Wow.

RHS: Yeah. And I remember he had a little gift for me.

GK: Yes, he had a little shepherd. He made you a little clay shepherd.

RHS: Yes.

GK: But he, his life was very difficult because the spinal bifida was just the beginning. He had maybe 27, 30 surgeries, supposedly some were corrections which never worked. He had both legs amputated up to the hip, open heart surgery, kidney, well, there weren't too many organs that they didn't touch. But they couldn't get his spirit. He wouldn't allow that.

RHS: Now, I was so captured by that tremendous spirit coming out of this in the wheelchair. You know, I ran around and knelt and we prayed together. I don't remember what I prayed but boy, we connected, didn't we?

GK: He connected.

RHS: Yes.

GK: He connected. But he watched you every Sunday from his hospital bed at home. We belong to Hope Lutheran in Toledo, marvelous pastors that were so good to him and so good to me.

RHS: Good.

GK: But, Jeffrey couldn't get to church often and even if he did go, he wouldn't leave until after the Hour of Power. So he coined every one of your phrases and he would just say, "I'm going to keep on keeping on." And he kept on. He kept on.
RHS: And then he became a possibility thinker and believed that maybe he could be an artist.

GK: And he became an artist.

RHS: Yes.

GK: He became an artist. And I had your stuff plastered all over my house. Signs, posters. I will do this, and he did it. He did it.

RHS: Then he got a dream that he could have his own exhibit.

GK: And he had an exhibit.

RHS: Tell me about that.

GK: A one man show.

RHS: A one man show.

GK: We worked for...he painted for 3 years. A wonderful, dear friend, who was his mentor in art, Laura taught me how to stretch canvas, taught me how to frame and we put a lot of effort into this show. The opening of his show he was in the hospital, desperately ill, running a fever. Invitations had gone out. We sent one to you.

RHS: Yes, I remember getting it. I wanted go.

GK: Oh yes, he wanted to send you a... I said, "Jeffrey, that's an impossibility." But...it worked.

RHS: He didn't...he didn't surrender to impossibilities.

GK: No, no, no, no, no.

RHS: Never, never did.

GK: So, I decided on this blizzardy, oh terrible day in Ohio, the day of the show, I would go and just say, and apologize, if anyone would even make it to the show through a blizzard. At 7 in the morning my phone rang and my heart just froze, something has happened, and it was Jeffrey's doctor. He said, "Get ready. He will go to the show." So Jeffrey went to his show, in an ambulance with his IV lines running in both hands, his doctor and a few nurses, and he shook hands with every 150 people that fought the storm to get out there. He sold out. He did well.

RHS: He did well.

GK: His show sold out. Yes.

RHS: His last days or his last hours he left with faith, didn't he?

GK: Yes. And he was on dialysis for 19 years, 3 days a week, for 19 years. And he accepted it and it was tough. It was tough.

RHS: But always he was able to bounce back again with...

GK: Oh, he had...

RHS: ...enthusiasm and energy and hope and vivacity. He's an incredible kid. Wonderful guy. I want to thank you, Gloria King...

GK: Oh.

RHS: ...for the mother you've been. It has been...

GK: I want to thank you. You...you did it on Sundays. You were our Wheaties, our breakfast of champions.

RHS: Okay, thank you. Thank you, Gloria. Thank you. Thank you very much.

MESSAGE/PRAYER ROBERT H. SCHULLER - "Turning Hurts Into Halos" #3
Wow! Ten pages, the letter. I cried when I got it. I still cry when I read it. It's such an uplifting thing. Well, I'm on chapter 3 of the book, and my message this

morning in chapter 3 is entitled, "What's the Heaviest Of All Hurts?" Remember we raised that question last week? I urged you to make a list of the hurts that humans experience on Planet Earth. I have a list and here there are about 17. I have my own private list. So you can look at the little bumps and nicks I've endured in my lifetime and try to scale them, which was the worst? And chapter 3 is entitled, "Life's Heaviest Hurt." It was very important that you do this, because that will give you a sense of perspective and that's what you need before you can turn a hurt into a halo, before you can take a hurt and pull it back from falling in the black hole. Or, before you can take a hurt and shape it so it doesn't become a bitter horn. You have to have a good perspective. What is life's heaviest hurt?

I was a guest of Armand Hammer at this event in L.A. and he wanted me to hear Elie Weisel, who was speaking. Now Elie Weisel, you know won the Nobel Peace Prize. He was in the death camp as a Jew and survived. And he said something I never forgot. He said, "I have experienced every hurt a human can experience; physical torture, children and family exterminated. I've experienced it all. Let me tell you the heaviest one." He said, "There was a time in that Holocaust experience when I was overwhelmed by a feeling that nobody ever knew any more that I was alive. No other human being from my lifetime knew that I was still alive. They had all given up. They were on to their own life. They were into other things and I felt," he said, "that I was abandoned, by everyone. And abandonment," he said, "is life's heaviest burden." Wow!

The reason I deal with that in chapter 3 is very important. I learned years ago that if you can handle the worst thing that could possibly come to you then you can handle anything. If you face a trial, a trouble, or an obstacle or a difficulty, ask yourself, "What's the worst that could happen?" And if you can handle that you can handle anything. So handle life's heaviest hurt, abandonment, the Holocaust, abandonment. From the Holy Cross to the Holocaust life has been infected and afflicted with enormous pain and suffering, but the worst is abandonment.

Elie experienced it in the Holocaust, Jesus experienced it on the Holy Cross. When he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" That is hell. In theology there are definitions of heaven and hell and they're almost all theories of course. But there's the one that I think most faiths agree on and it is that hell is to experience the absence of God completely. That's hell. Abandonment. Whoa. I love these words from Psalm 139. 139. "Where can I go from your Spirit, God? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend into heaven, you are there. If I make my bed in hell, behold, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall your hand lead me and your right hand shall hold me. If I say surely the darkness shall fall on me, even the night shall be light around me." We can't escape from the presence of God. People say when great horror and tragedy strikes, where is God? God is the first power on the scene.

I was invited by the ministers of Denver to bring a message to them last night. A message on how we can go from hurt to healing and from healing to hope. It was my great honor to be invited to share that moment with them. Well, I first went to Littleton before the evening dinner and the...and the service. I went because Casey Ruegsegger, I wanted to see her. And she was here at the Glory of Christmas and her parents and family, they're dear Hour of Power friends and family, she survived. She gave no interviews to anyone but I was invited to the house. The shoulder was badly shot and the arm. Fortunately, all the right arm because she had dreams of becoming, you know, a part of the national event in riding. She's a great horse girl. She's in western riding, fortunately. If she were in English riding she would need both hands, but in western the right hand should be left straight

down and you do everything with the left hand which, that hand is not wounded. So she's going to make it. Prayed with her and her wonderful family.

And then the grandparents of a, wow, the grandparents of Cassie Bernall, wanted to see me so I met them in the hotel. And the grandfather of Isaiah Shoels, had his funeral only a few days before and he was in his casket in cap and gown. Well, I met the grandparents of two of the wonderful kids that were shot, cold blood murdered. And, there is an evil loose in this world.

Oh, before I met them, I wanted to visit the site and I was given a special escort by the police department from Denver and Littleton. Driven to the school, I'd never been there, what impressed me most was the fact that this was like a most luxurious area of Orange County, Southern, California, with its roads and its shopping centers, its fashionable stores. You just can't imagine in that kind of a upscale neighborhood that something so tragic had happened. And the road that approaches the school site is probably a 4 or 6 lane highway, very busy. And we realized we were getting close to the school before I saw the buildings I began to see tents along the road covering flowers, more tents covering gifts, a big banner, "Our love and prayers are with you. Fort Wayne, Indiana." More flowers, more gifts, block after block, white tents covering the gestures of love. "We pray for you. Salt Lake City, Utah." Signs from cities and states around the country. And then I saw a traffic line up, bumper to bumper, the cars were hardly moving, they went off of the main highway, around toward the hill, toward where the crosses were, standing like profiles on the hillside. You could see them. And hundreds of people, all under their umbrellas on this rainy day, there on the hill, half a mile away. And I would go there and there was the line up of cars, probably a mile long, bumper to bumper, slowly moving, coming from all over the United States, to express their shock and their sympathy.

Where is God when tragedy strikes good people? Where is He? Oh my God, I saw him. It was like I was driving through a charismatic halo. All of these people, their love, their care, their gestures, their cards, their gifts, God using human beings to show his love, his compassion, his suffering too. One thing you feel, there's a love that's overpowering. It is the love of God working through human spirit and human compassion.

Well, we rode around...walked around the school. There's the window where on the news I saw the boy hanging out with his head bleeding, calling out, "Help me." Piece of plywood that covers the hole. I couldn't enter the school to the library or the cafeteria, it's still a crime scene. I've never seen anything like it. To get to the crosses I had to walk up a slippery, muddy hill, maybe between a quarter and a half a mile, an umbrella. Hand to hang on to a chunk of a fence to keep from slipping and falling in the mud. I was forewarned so I had an extra pair of shoes that I could slip on when I would be on the stage and speak to the people. There were the crosses, 13 of them. The first one, Rachel Scott's cross. All the flowers and kids had written on the wide enough beam of the cross, "We love you." "Jesus loves you." "You're in heaven forever." "Miss you, Rachel." She stood up for Christ and took the shot in the face that killed her. And there's the cross of the coach to the teacher who went running across the school, saved so many lives, got killed in the process. Wow!

And then there was the cross of Cassie Bernall. Cassie Bernall. And then the cross of the young black boy Isaiah Shoels. Oh, I put a rose flower on each of the crosses and said a prayer at each spot. It's probably the most emotional experience I've had in my years as a pastor.

You know, Isaiah, had heart surgery not long ago and they thought he wouldn't make and he made it, but he didn't make it this time. His grandpa said to me, "Oh

Dr. Schuller, he loved Jesus. He was so funny. Everybody like Isaiah in school. He was a comedian. He was always funny. And they spotted him and they said, 'There's that N____,' blew him away." And there's Cassie. Cassie's, both of her grandparents, all 4, we had a wonderful time together in my private room before I went down to give my speech. All four of them. Told a remarkable story, how she was on the edge of getting into this whole witchcraft, this awful demon worshipping crowd. She escaped it barely, but then shocked her folks when not long after that she came home from a retreat with a bunch of the young kids, and she said, "Mom and Dad, I've been born-again. I'm a Christian." And she wasn't teasing, she wasn't making light of it. She was born again. And from that point on she carried her Bible every day until her last day and then she was standing up when the shooting and killing was going on all around her and they came up to her and said, "Do you believe in God?" And when she was asked that question she'd seen the others shot, she knew that if she said yes she would be blown away, and she looked at them and without hesitation she said, "Yes, and I believe in Jesus Christ." And bang, she was blown away.

A holy hero. A modern American martyr for Jesus Christ. Standing up for the faith. This has been a long service this morning and I can't go on too long, but what did I tell the people. I shared with them what I did with you last Sunday and I repeated, but I added a word. I said, "How do you turn your hurts into halos?" First weep, cry, ball, let it out. I did coming home from Korea to get to my daughter whose leg had been amputated. I balled in the bathroom, loud. But I turned the noise into a word "allelujah" "Allelujah..allelujah..allelujah.." Weep. It's healthy. Then wait. Wait on the Lord and he shall strengthen your heart. Then walk the narrow path. Don't get off the path of the Lord. Too many people have lost a child and then they've lost their marriage. Then walk, walk uprightly. Weep, wait, walk, work, get busy, trust in the Lord and do good. Get busy. And help people who are hurting and others that are hurting more than you are, so get with it. Be a minister to them. Number five, watch, and you'll be surprised how God reaches to you.

Yesterday I saw God in Denver, Colorado, and I saw God in Littleton. I saw him with these thousands and thousands of people carrying flowers, pausing at the crosses, sending their prayers through tears. Where is God when tragedy strikes? He's first on the scene. Through people, children, old people, loving.

Watch. How do you turn the hurt into a halo? You weep, you walk, you work, you watch and now that's good advise to Christian's and believers. But some of you are unbelievers. You're agnostics. You're skeptics. You're atheists. So I'm adding a sixth "w" just for you. And here it is.

Wake up. Wake up and see reality not mythology. Life has hurts and when it happens all the love that is reached out to the sorrowing soul. Feel it. Hear it. And you will be walking into the presence of God whose love is right there. Become a believer.

To believers, stand up for the faith. How many of you could do what Cassie Bernall did. You know, when she was shot she had a relative in England, heard that there were 13 kids that were dead in Littleton, Colorado and heard that one of these was a girl. When he looked at her with a gun and asked her if she believed in God, she said she did. The relative in England said, "Oh, that's Cassie." She had another relative in the Navy in Okinawa, ready to board his submarine when he heard the news report. No name. Only that one of the kids was a girl and he asked her, "Do you believe in God." And she said, "Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ." And he said, "It's got to be Cassie."

Half way round the world. Europe to the Orient, she had a reputation for standing up boldly, beautifully, confidently for Jesus Christ. She made her decision two years ago to become a Christian. She said, "I will follow Jesus." And there will be no turning back.

How about you. Where are you? If you met a person and looked into the barrel of a gun while others were screaming and lying in their blood. Now you, it's your chance, do you believe in God, and you know if you tell the truth that'll be the end of your life. I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back. No turning back. Because you know he won't abandon you. He'll just take you to his eternal home and then your hurt will really have changed into a halo. Amen.

HYMN - "One Light"

One light, a light unto the world, Your light, a beacon brightly shining. One truth spoken from the heart, A part of You will always be the part that is the best in me. One light, a light unto the world.

One light, a light unto the world, Your light, a beacon brightly shining. One truth, spoken from the heart, a part of You will always be the part that is the best in me. One light, a light unto the world.

BENEDICTION

RHS: Peace be with you. Have a good week. Bye bye.