

HOUR OF POWER OF 14.09.2008

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RHS: Good Morning! (AUDIENCE RESPONSE: "GOOD MORNING.") You know why you came here this morning. I do. You are here to experience one of the great hours in this Crystal Cathedral. My guest, I'm so proud to say, is Dr. Nancy Dickey, the first woman to be elected to become president of the AMA, the American Medical Association. She's terrific. Here with us, in person. And Dr. Chin Kim. Chin Kim is a premiere performing violinist in the world. And his relatives belong to this church and that's why we're so fortunate to have him back again today. And under the direction of Gregory Athnos, the Chamber Singers from North Park University in Chicago, Illinois. Think of all of that and I've got a sermon for you. No, not a sermon, a witness. I've got news. I want to tell you what I've seen God do last night, this week. So, this is the day that God has made. Come on, let's rejoice and be glad in it!

O God, thank You for putting this all together and putting us right in the middle of it. We are exactly where we should be at this moment in our life and You had a lot to do with it for You're interested in us. Thank You. Amen.

ANTHEM - NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS - "I'm Goin' to Sing"

I'm goin' to sing when the Spirit says: Sing! I'm goin' to sing when the Spirit says: Sing! I'm goin' to sing when the Spirit says: Sing! And obey the Spirit of the Lord. I'm goin' to sing when the Spirit says: Sing! I'm goin' to sing when the Spirit says: Sing! I'm goin' to sing when the Spirit says: Sing! And obey the Spirit of the Lord. Obey, obey, obey, obey.

I'm goin' to pray when the Spirit says: Pray! I'm goin' to pray when the Spirit says: Pray! I'm goin' to pray when the Spirit says: Pray! And obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm goin' to shout when the Spirit says: Shout! I'm goin' to shout when the Spirit says: Shout! I'm goin' to shout when the Spirit says: Shout! And obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm goin' to sing when the Spirit says: Sing! I'm goin' to sing when the Spirit says: Sing! I'm goin' to sing when the Spirit says: Sing! And obey the Spirit of the Lord.

ANTHEM - NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS - "Sing to the Lord a New Song"

Sing to the Lord a new song, for He does wonders. He conquers with His right hand, also with His holy arm. The Lord has His salvation made known to the heathen has He openly shown His righteousness. He remembers toward the house of Israel His mercy and truth. And all the ends of the earth have seen His salvation.

Joyfully shout unto the Lord. Sing ye, hail Him and praise Him. Praise ye the Lord with harps and with psalms, and with trumpets, and with sound of horns. Jubilate unto the Lord the King. Let the sea roar and the fullness thereof, and the earth, and they that dwell therein. And let the floods rejoice, and all the hills be joyful before the Lord; For He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the earth with righteousness and the people with truth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, to eternity. Amen.

SCRIPTURE - Psalm 84 - RAS

RAS: Thank you for that glorious music. Recorded in Psalm 84 we have these wonderful words of David. Listen:

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty. My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Even the sparrow has found a home. And the swallow a nest for herself where she may have her young. A place near Your alter.

O Lord Almighty, my King and my God. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house. They are ever praising you. Blessed are those whose strength is in You, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

As they pass through the valley, they make a place of springs. They go from strength to strength. Hear my prayer, O Lord God Almighty. Listen to me, O God. Better is one day in Your court than a thousand elsewhere. For the Lord God is a shield. The Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

O Lord Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in You.

Trust in the Lord and walk in His ways.

VIOLIN SOLO - CHIN KIM - "Melodie Opus 42 No. 3"

INTERVIEW - NANCY W. DICKEY, M.D.

RHS: ROBERT HAROLD SCHULLER ND: NANCY DICKEY

RHS: Well, my guest this morning is Nancy W. Dickey, the first woman ever to be elected to become the president of the AMA, the American Medical Association. She received her medical degree from the University of Texas medical school in Houston, where she was the recipient of the distinguished Alumnus Award. She's been on many boards, has been involved in the community activities, is a member of the Christ Church United Methodist Church in College Station. She's a wonderful wife, mother of 3 children. Please welcome with me, Dr. Nancy Dickey.

ND: Thank you. Thank you so much.

RHS: You're welcome.

ND: Thank you.

RHS: Wow! You know I always send a letter of congratulations to the new president of the AMA. I've done this for years because I think they deserve congratulations.

ND: Good.

RHS: I got such a nice letter back from you. It surprised me.

ND: Well, I was...I was thrilled. You were someone whose books I used to teach in Sunday school and someone whose name I had heard. I just had no idea I would get such a nice letter and thought it deserved a response.

RHS: You teach Sunday school?

ND: I teach Sunday school when I stay in town often enough. It's a little difficult when I spend as much time traveling as I do, but that's what feeds me. And you need to be fed to go on every day.

RHS: When did you decide you wanted to become a doctor?

ND: Oh I think I decided back in high school but I had some counseling, this was 30 years ago, that one couldn't be a doctor and a wife and a mother, and I was one of 7 kids, I knew I eventually wanted a family. So I didn't go to college intending to be a doctor. But I met a young man who eventually became my husband who said if that's what you want to do, go for it. So we did.

RHS: Gee.

ND: So ... and I've never regretted it.

RHS: Fantastic! Now, do you still, after being elected president of AMA, do you still have a private practice?

ND: Well, sadly for this year, that's the one thing I have to give up. I'll spend about 250 days, maybe 300, traveling around the country and that's very hard to take care of patients, but I have taken care of patients up until now, and will look forward as soon as this year is over to going back to taking care of my patients. That's what being a doctor is really all about.

RHS: Very good. What kind of a doctor are you?

ND: I'm a family physician, so I get to do everything from deliver babies to take care of their grandmothers, to take care of people in the hospital and lots of day-to-day things of traumas and depression and colds and sore throats.

RHS: How come you became president of AMA? Were you surprised? Was it a goal?

ND: Well, it started out just serendipity, actually. I was invited when I was a resident to attend a meeting. And I said, "Gee, I've got a toddler, I'm an intern, I'm really busy. Thank you." And they said, "Well, it's a free trip to San Francisco." I hate to admit that's why I did it.

But I got there and I discovered that, you know, I had learned a lot about the science of medicine, about taking care of patients and I loved that, but even 20 years ago medicine was very politicized -- what the government did, what insurance companies did, what employers did, had a lot to do with what I was allowed to do as a physician. And here was a group that was talking to all of those people and so I got involved, certainly never dreamed then that I would ever be able to even think about this kind of a position. Ten years ago I was elected to the AMA Board and was a little surprised to be asked to run, but found the election process interesting and so I can't say this election was a surprise. But if somebody had said 20 years ago this is where I'd be, you could have knocked me over with a feather. RHS: What are your goals?

ND: Three actually. One is, I think that our profession's in a bit of a dilemma right now. We have so many challenges that patients begin to question whether we're committed to our ethics. And I think we have to make some measurable, visible recommitment to what it means to be a doctor, to putting our patients first. Then I think that our health system still has serious problems in this country and physicians need to be out in front leading, figuring out how we use this wonderful technology but keep it within the costs of what America can afford to spend. And lastly, I think it's time for America's doctors to stand up and say every American ought to have access to care and some way to pay for it. We have 42 million Americans today who don't have insurance, who are terrified that they'll become ill. And while most of us give away some care, medicine's too complex today to continue to do it simply because I will charitably care for you this afternoon. You really ought to have the opportunity to have insurance so that you don't have to be afraid of becoming ill.

RHS: What's the solution?

ND: Well, I think the solution is to make all of these people part of our partners to make sure that patients and doctors begin to be the ones to make the decisions

rather than employers and legislators and regulators. Because it's your health and my profession and together that leads to the best possible health care. We've got to wrest it back from the people who've been making decisions on our behalf and say, "No, we're smart enough..." Thank you. See? Thank you. Now, if these people are smart enough to give permission for surgeries or for what kind of medicines they take, they're certainly smart enough to pick what kind of insurance and decide how much money they want to spend for it and we need to tell the government, we need to tell our employers, that while we want their generosity we want to be the ones that make the decisions. And it'll take some legislation, it'll take some regulation changes and I hope the American Medical Association will lead the way and tell all of our patients what the changes need to be. So together we can create that change. We've got to get the balance back to saying cost is important, but quality of care has got to be the measure. Thank you.

RHS: Can we trust the doctors when they say, "Oh you need an operation?" Or are they in the marketing business too.

ND: Well, certainly, I mean we've spent our lives usually 'til we're 35 years old training and the thing we know best is probably what we recommend so when someone's troubled I suspect you recommend they look to their faith and to the Lord to find some answers, and surgeons look to surgical solutions. So the first thing we have to trust is ourselves. We have to ask, "Have we've gotten enough information. Do we want to hear a second perspective," because ultimately the best decision maker is my patient. But doctors ethics says to them, "We've got to do what's right for our patient. Not what's right for my pocketbook or my house payment at the end of the year."

RHS: Do they make a commitment to that ethical standard?

ND: They do that before they go into medical school. They do it when they graduate from medical school. I get to go from here to U.S.C. and help a bunch of doctors graduate and one of the things they'll do this afternoon is take an oath that says, "Whatever else, we put our patients first." And we've got to remind them of that every day, because that's what's important.

RHS: That touches me because a lot of people have talked to me and they have the feeling that a lot of doctors aren't thinking that way anymore.

ND: I think .. my mother used to come home and say to me, "How come patients say those things to you, Nancy." And I said, "Well, we're just people too. We've gone to school." Patients need to remember that this is a relationship. And so when a doctor is doing something that doesn't seem right, ask him or her about it and say, "Why?" Or go find another doctor. You know I don't know anybody that buys the first car they look at and yet frequently when we're sick we go to the first doctor we come to. Have enough faith in yourselves to go and say to the doctor, "What is important to you." And if you're a Christian maybe you want to say, "Do you have a faith and does it matter more to you what I need or what the insurance company says. What I need or your house payment at the end of the month." And feel free to ask those questions. You know if we won't give you answers about what's important to us, maybe you don't want to trust your health to the partnership we're going to have together. Patients ought to trust themselves. Thank you.

RHS: That's good. Boy oh boy am I glad you're the President of the AMA for a whole new year. You can make a lot of difference for good, Nancy, you really can. Tell me about your faith. It is very obvious. You have a very positive, positive faith in God and in Jesus Christ.

You wrote in your letter to me you were so happy to come here because a lot of times when you have an opportunity to speak before a crowd it's not an

appropriate or open platform for you to share your faith. This is it. Tell us what you believe and why and what difference it makes.

ND: Well, I grew up a Christian. I had strong Christian parents and strong Christian in-laws and grandparents. So I guess I can't imagine what it would be not to have a Christian faith. But medicine and having children just enlarges that. The audacity to think that somehow this just happened as opposed to some greater being directing how it happened. And in medicine it's very reassuring to me because when I've done all I know how to do I know there's some place else we can turn. So, I just can't imagine practicing medicine without that faith. I know there are some who do. And I turn to that when I need strength or direction. Sometimes when you just need some place that you can go and confess what's going on and you don't really want to do that for a human being. So it's always nice to know there's Someone up there listening. It's very important.

RHS: Wonderful.

ND: Thank you.

RHS: Your marriage -- happily married?

ND: Happily married over a quarter of a century. Long time.

RHS: And three children.

ND: Three children. Almost grown now, 22 yesterday, 19 and 16. Wonderful kids.

RHS: If you had one achievement that you knew you could succeed in pulling off in your year as president of the AMA, what would it be? If you knew you could not fail, what would you try to do?

ND: I think the one thing that's most important today is truly to get that universal access care for all Americans.

RHS: How can that happen?

ND: Well, I think that has to happen by making sure that we look at who's uninsured and that we open the doors so that people may be able to buy their way into insurance without spending the whole price of the ticket, if you will. And going back to that Christianity that we Americans have done so many things. I mean, you've come from a drive-in movie theater to this through generosity. We've come from a black bag that held snake oil to modern medicine. Surely, those same imaginations can look at those 42 million Americans and say, "How do we open the doors and bring you in?" And it may be by expanding insurance. It may be by hospital systems saying, "If the doctors will give it away, so will we." May be by pharmaceutical companies opening their doors wider than they already do, and they're generous in many ways. But we have to say it's a number one priority. I think that's all it takes. To say, "This is what we want to accomplish." And I think we can get there in a year.

RHS: Thank you, Dr. Nancy Dickey.

ND: Thank you. Thank you, Dr. Schuller.

RHS: God loves you and so do I.

ND: Thank you very much.

RHS: Thank you.

ND: Thank you. I appreciate it.

HYMN - "This is the Day"

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. I will rejoice, I will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. I will rejoice, I will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

ANTHEM - "The Unchanging God"

Lord, Lord, You have been our refuge, Lord, from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, You, You, You are God from everlasting and world without end.

We sing the praise of one Lord, one faith, one baptism; We sing the praise of one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in us all. We believe in God, and He believes in us.

His faithfulness is to all generations from everlasting and world without end. Lifting high His cross, we follow His command: Go forth and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, the end of the age.

HYMN - "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come, our Shelter from the stormy blast and our eternal Home.

O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come, O be our Guide while life shall last, and our eternal Home.

Amen, Amen!

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT HAROLD SCHULLER

"Turning Your Hurts Into Halos" #5

RHS: I'm continuing a series of messages on the new book, Turning Hurts into Halos and if you've just joined us for the first time here on this theme, there could be no more appropriate Bible verse for the text of a morning message than the 23rd Psalm. "The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want. Yea tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for You are with me."

Pause. Take a break. Hear the question. Will the kind of faith that we're believing in today still be around 50 years from now. Or a 100 years from now. Or 500 years from now. Or a thousand years from now. Beyond a doubt, I say it will never, never die. Because the faith that we embrace deals with reality thinking. And now I refer to the title of another book, written by the man that I think is the single most influential psychiatrist in the world today. Dr. William Glasser. He had a book called Reality Therapy. He had a book called Positive Addictions and his new book is Choice Theory. What's so sensational about our faith is we prove that we are realistic in our thinking and we're not polyanna people. This faith is reality thinking. It says, "Hey! I'm gonna walk through the valley of the shadow of death."

The world that's secular doesn't want to talk about the subject. They don't even want to think about the cemeteries. They don't want to go to church on a Memorial weekend when you remember people who died. It's not the Christian religious people. It's not the Judaic Christian people who are kidding themselves. We are reality thinkers. We know we will all go through the valley of the shadow of death. And that's okay. We're ready for it.

We are reality thinkers. And nothing can ever change the fact that human beings will always die. All the genetic engineering that you might think of. All of the scientific achievements that may be in the future will not eliminate death. It would

be a mess if that were so. How would you like to live in a world surrounded by people that are 500 years old. And if the president was really good, he could never... Can you imagine how would you like to run against Abe Lincoln today? Or would you like to run for office against George Washington? God did it right when He planned life spans. There's a life span to the tree and to the flower and to the creature and to the human. The question is, how do we face death.

Here's the Psalmist. The super reality thinker. To us, to the psalmist, he did not deny the reality that a human being goes through an experience called death, but to the believer, it is a shadow. The reality is what lies beyond death. There is another life, there is a transcendent. We live in a spiritual universe. It's easy for some of the kids to symbolize that 'cause you look up in the sky and you know how many satellites are there and how many messages are there. What's in the air all around us. The songs and the music. All of the messages and music and power that is generated through invisible signals in space all around us. It's easier for you to sense that there is an almighty eternal, invisible super God there. And life is eternal and that's why when we go to the graves we remember those who have gone before. They're not dead. I cannot say it. I will not say that they are dead. They are just away.

With a cheery smile, and a wave of the hand. They have wandered into an unknown land. And left us dreaming, how very fair in deeds must be since they linger there. And you, and you who the wildest yearn for the old time step and the glad return. Think of them still as the same. I say, they are not dead. They are just away. "Yea tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." Just think of those words. "Tho I walk." Not crawl, not creep, not cringe. Walk. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint."

Walk. "Yea tho I walk. Yea tho I walk through the valley." Through, not to. Not into, but through it. It's an experience which is part of the process of living. This is no problem as long as you're not afraid. He's not afraid. Listen to me, Robert Schuller. I'm not afraid either. I have never faced death like you people have that wear the uniform of our country. Never have. Almost lost a daughter, but they saved her life. Almost lost my wife, but she lived through it. They said I was 20 minutes from death when they brought me in a coma where I had been for 10 hours and rushed to an Amsterdam hospital and they shaved my hair. They pulled the skin back and they did brain surgery. And then another one eight days later. But I have not faced death like you folks have. My heart attack wasn't bad. No. But I will tell you the key word is THROUGH! Not to. Yea tho I walk THROUGH the valley. It is a valley. This doesn't mean that we're down long.

Some of you just lost a loved one. You're in the valley. Some of you, it concerns your job. You're going through it. It's not a pleasant. For some of you, it's a lab report from the hospital. You've got cancer. For others you have relatives and friends who have suffered a tragedy and you're crying with them and there are those here today who have friends that were shot and killed in the high school the other day. And our prayers are with you.

"Yea tho I walk." Walk. "Through the valley. Through the valley. Through the valley." Yeah. Even the kids have their valleys. The adolescents. They're going through the valley. Some of those kids. Their dad and mothers got mad. They used drugs. They split. They're divorced. The innocent kid doesn't know where he's going to be living. That kid is going through a valley. Yea tho I, whatever my age, walk through the valley of the shadow. Ohhh. Ohhh. The shadow of death. Just the shadow, not the real thing.

To we who are believers, death is never really real. It's a shadow, it's a transition. The process we go through into eternal life which I truly believe in. Shadow? Guess what. That's a positive word because you know what, if you see a shadow, you can be sure there is a sun. Or a bright light. You can't make a shadow without it. There is a light behind every shadow. "Tho I walk through the valley of the shadow of death." There's a valley.

I gave this message a title. It's a title I borrowed from a book that's twelve years old. It's entitled, Getting Through the Going Through Stage. And I don't know where some of you are at today, but you're in a stage and you got to know that you can get through it. Yeah. And if I had the time, I'd preach a sermon with ten points, but I do want to read the ten chapters of this book, they're masterful. Ten steps as you walk through the valley. The walk, how long is it? It's ten steps.

Step 1: Look at your life positively. "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want."

Are you ready for step 2: When you're down, look up. "He makes me to lie down."

Step 3: Think of God as your partner. "He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul."

Step 4: Replace guilt with gratitude. Do some soul searching. Probably something you've done has contributed to this problem. Always does. Maybe you should have quit smoking. I don't know. Don't live with guilt. Replace it with gratitude. God wants to be with you and He'll forgive you. Now your soul is washed clean.

Take step 5: Face your fears with faith. And you will fear no evil if you've conquered the fear of death, you have conquered the mother of all fears. You can face any problem and say what's the worst that could happen. The worst that could happen is, you'll die. And if you're ready for that one, you'll live the rest of your life. Wow. With hope and love.

Step 6: Let love lighten your load. Now the load gets heavy. It's the love that really lightens the load. It doesn't necessarily perform the miracle and remove the problem, but by george it gives you the strength to keep walking through.

Step 7: Hold on to hope. "Your rod and Your staff they comfort me."

Step 8: Believe it and you can do it. Believe it and you can do it. Yes, I can get to it. I can do it. Yes, I can get through it. Yes, my life can has meaning. Yes, God still has a plan for me. Believe it and you can do it.

Step 9: Your future will be fruitful. "You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over."

Hey, optimism will come back and with it the energy of enthusiasm and then you're ready for step 10: Prepare yourself for life long fulfillment. Ten steps on how to get through the going through stage. I want to thank the author, my son, Robert Anthony Schuller. It was a best seller twelve years ago.

Oh, where are you? What is your faith. Maybe you didn't have the advantage like my son did, of growing up in a family where there was a Christian mother and a Christian father. Maybe you didn't grow up where you had a chance to go to Sunday School every Sunday of your life and have this faith become a part of your very personality so it's inextricable.

Well I want to invite you to get acquainted with One who lived two thousand years ago, His name is Jesus Christ. Now that's reality thinking. I'm not wishful thinking. There was this man named Jesus who lived two thousand years ago. He loved this Psalm 23. He lived, He died, we believe He rose again. I believe He's alive today. His name is Jesus Christ. And I invite you, start talkin' to Him, get connected. Get connected. If you're connected right, you can get through anything. Hallelujah. More next week. Let's pray:

Lord, thank You. You are our Shepherd. You are real as faith dares to face the ultimate challenge. No philosophy, no ideology, no religion, no spiritual thinking system can surpass these holy words. Hallelujah. Amen.

HYMN - "We've A Story To Tell To The Nations"

We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right, a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light. For the darkness has turned to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, and Christ's great kingdom has come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

BENEDICTION - RHS

Oh, it's going to be a great week. I don't know what's in store for me or for you. But I'll tell you one thing, you will be led by God. May be a coincidence, chance encounter, unexpected telephone call, you ran into somebody that you hadn't seen in a long time. Probably there'll be an accident, maybe intuition, but God is guiding you every minute of every hour all through your life, and that's the truth. So may God bless you with His peace in your going out, in your coming in. In your lying down, 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.

INSTRUMENTAL - HOUR OF POWER ORCHESTRA - "Brandenburg #3"