

HOUR OF POWER OF 28.09.2008

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power Rob Mitchell reached the heights in business as an investment specialist, but at the age of 3 his mother left him on the steps of an orphanage where he discovered a faith in God.

ROB: I prayed a very unconventional prayer in the orphanage. I said Jesus if You're real, and You'll come into my nightmare and change me and forgive me of my sins, then I'm Yours. But if You won't, You're a fraud. Not a traditional sinner's prayer.

VO: Also, the amazing voice of contemporary artist Ken Medema.

KEN: How oh tell me where do we begin.

VO: Then are you lost in hopelessness today? Let Pastor Schuller help you find hope again in your life.

RAS: Jesus Himself tells us directly, promises to us that if we ask anything in His name, He will do it. When you think there is no hope, there is.

VO: Join us today for the best hour on television, the Hour of Power with Robert Schuller.

HYMN - "Joyful, Joyful.."

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

GOOD MORNING/OPENING SENTENCE/INVOCATION

RAS: Good morning. And welcome to the Crystal Cathedral. It is a wonderful day to be able to feel the presence of the holy spirit of God that is here, that is surrounding us; that is enveloping us with His love so that we can extend our love to others. So would you please take a moment right now and do that. Shake the hands of those who are standing next to you and behind you. Shake their hands and say God loves you and I do too.

So at this time I want to invite you to join me as we open our worship service with a moment of prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that You're a God who cares, a God who loves, a God who embraces. So as we stand here today, we feel Your embrace. Your embrace of love. And as we are embraced we realize that You have given us the power and the will and the hope to be able to do what You have called us to do. And so we thank You Lord and we praise Your name, Amen.

HYMN - "Medley – This is My Father's World"

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is my Father's world: The birds their carols raise, the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.

Children of the heavenly Father safely in His bosom gather; Nestling bird nor star in Heaven such a refuge ever was given.

God His own does tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish; From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.

This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems often strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father's world: Why should my heart be sad? The Lord is King: Let the heavens ring! God reigns: let earth be glad! This is my Father's world!

SCRIPTURE – Sel. Verses from 1 Peter 1 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. The scripture lesson this morning is from 1 Peter, chapter 3. Think of it: there was a man who wrote these words two thousand years ago. They were printed in a book called the Holy Bible because everybody who was a Christian agreed they were special. Hear the words that St. Paul wrote.

Blessed be to God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope! Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ and into an inheritance that can never, never perish, an inheritance that can never spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you who through faith are shielded by God's power. In all this greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These trials, they come so that your faith of greater worth than gold may be proven genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor, which Jesus Christ reveals. Though you may not see Him, love Him, and even though you do not see Him now, you do believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy for you are receiving the end result of your faith and that is the salvation of your soul. Now, just as He who's called you is holy, that doesn't mean perfect, it doesn't mean sinless it means whole and healthy human being. Just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do which means live out Christ' love through Your eyes, your face and your lips, and the touch of your hand. So you be holy in all you do for it is written be holy because I am holy.

This is the word of God.

ANTHEM - "Holy is Your Name"

Holy, holy is the Lord God almighty. Holy, holy, holy. Holy Lord.

Holy, holy is the Lord God almighty. Holy, holy, holy. Holy Lord.

Holy is Your name, O Lord, Holy is Your name. Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory, Holy is Your name. Holy is Your name, O Lord, Holy is Your name. Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory, Holy is Your name.

One day Jesus went to Jericho, Holy, holy, holy Lord. And the people came to greet the Lord. Holy, holy, holy Lord. Zacchias was short and he could not see, Holy, holy, holy Lord. So he climbed up into a sycamore tree. Holy, holy, holy Lord. The Master looked up, said, "Zacchias come down, today salvation's come to your house." Holy is your name, O Lord, Holy is Your name. Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory, Holy is Your name.

Holy is Your name, O Lord, Holy is Your name. Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory, Holy is Your name. Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. All the doors were locked when the Lord appeared. Holy, holy, holy Lord.

His disciples gathered there. Holy, holy, holy Lord. He said, "Those who don't see, yet believe, are blest." Holy, holy, holy Lord. Then He turned to the skeptical one, and said, Holy, holy, holy Lord. Thomas, look at my hands! Touch my side! I am alive, who was crucified! Holy is Your name, O Lord, Holy is Your name.

Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory, Holy is Your name.

Holy is Your name, O Lord, Holy is Your name. Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory, Holy is Your name. Holy is Your name, oh Lord, Holy is Your name. Holy is Your name oh Lord, Holy is Your name!

RHS THANK YOU TO CHOIR & JOHN ROSASCO

RHS: Thank you choir, thank you pianist. Did you ever hear that song before?

JOHN: Oh yes, because I wrote it.

RHS: Yes, that's what I wanted. Oh wow, we've sung more of your songs, but it was high time that I picked you out and said look at the talent we have in this church.

INTERVIEW – ROB MITCHELL

RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER RM: ROB MITCHELL

RHS: We have a wonderful guest this morning. I didn't meet him until this morning, and I just got an advanced copy of his book, which has been out some time, but the book is called Castaway Kids. I have not read it, I can't wait to read it because the people who endorsed it, for instance, Benjamin Carson, Dr. Benjamin Carson MD; you remember him. Johns Hopkins University, separated the two joined twins, made a miracle happen. Dr. Carson says, "Before you sit down to read Castaway Kid by Rob Mitchell, I'd suggest you obtain a box of tissues. This compelling story grabs from the first page, helps you to understand what real loneliness and what real rejection is like. A splendid example of how the hand of God can heal all wounds and boost us toward the goal of realizing our potential. And when you finish this book," Dr. Carson writes, "you'll be ready to put down the tissue and pick up your conquerors helmet." Thanks, Ben, thank you very much. Here he is the author of Castaway Kid, Rob Mitchell.

I can see a spirit comes out of your eyes. Spirit comes out of everybody's eyes. And I have been able to see when the spirit of Jesus comes out of those eyes. And that's not where you were born. Tell me the first three years of your life.

RM: When I was three years old my father abandoned my mother and I. He put a gun to his head, pulled the trigger and blew out part of his brains. But he did not kill himself. And for the next 26 years he was a walking vegetable in a mental hospital. A man with a college degree, a master's degree from Northwestern University could put food in his mouth but not remember to chew. He could walk but he could not talk. He could put his pants on but not remember where or when to go to the bathroom. My mother had enormous emotional and psychological problems that she had masked prior to their marriage but as always in marriage those masks come down. And three months after my fathers failed suicide attempt she drug me from Chicago to Little Princeton Illinois and it was a strange building and I'm whimpering and she's telling me to shut up and commands me to sit in a corner and play with blocks with a strange boy and I reach for a block and he steals it. And I reach for a block and he steals it and I turn to look to my mother for help and she's abandoned me without a word of explanation. And a strange woman whose name and face I don't remember says she's gone back to Chicago she'll come get you when she's well. And I still remember in three-year-old slow motion clumsiness rising up off the floor-crying "no"! And running to the nearest door and trying to reach the handle to escape and find my mother and I am too

short and I can't reach the door. And this woman says quit crying or I'll spank you. I was terrified and I couldn't quit crying and she picks me up and spanks me over and over and over again until the pain of being spanked is worse than the pain of being abandoned. And my memories then go blank for a while.

RHS: You would be in that orphanage for seventeen..

RM: Fourteen years.

RHS: Fourteen years. At the age of seventeen they had to let you go right?

RM: Yes.

RHS: State laws. So what did they do? They took you to the door and what did they say? Goodbye?

RM: That was pretty much.. it was very much so just a sports coat and a one way bus ticket to wherever you wanted to go. And it was very difficult on the boys because teenage boys go through their childhoods very angry and we didn't learn coping skills. We didn't learn how to balance a check book and so many boys ended up living lives of drifting, meaningless, often dead or in prison before they were twenty-one, because we could never come to grips with the issues of our own childhoods.

Many people often wonder what is it like to live in an orphanage. And the two phrases that describe it the most are very regimented and desperately lonely. The bell rang at seven, race to the bathroom; there were sixty kids broken up: little boys little girls, big boys, big girls. Race to the locker room, put your clothes on, line up like a rag tag army punching and shoving. Stomp down stairs for breakfast at seven-thirty. Lunch is noon, dinner is five-thirty and then they lock the kitchen. They weren't being mean but there wasn't any money for staff or good for eight o'clock snacks at night, so if you were hungry you went to the bathroom, cupped your hand and drank tap water.

But the other thing was the desperate loneliness. As you know children are egocentric. We think life is good because we're good and we deserve it, but children at risk like we were think life is bad because we're bad and we deserve it. And we pray and we hope but eventually we give up hope that anybody's going to rescue us.

RHS: Did you go to college?

RM: Yes.

RHS: How did you get in? How did you pay for it?

RM: A very long strange story. I ended up at Gilford College in Greensboro North Carolina. I was there for two years then I had found Christ the fall of my senior year in high school and so three years later went deep in the jungles of the Congo the Ubangi Jungles..

RHS: Wow.

RM: ..on a mission field.

RHS: How did you find Christ?

RM: I was invited to be a lifeguard swim instructor at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. I thought they were nuts to hire a punk like me. But here are these campers and the camp counselors, they have this joy and this peace and this love and this hope and I kept trying to dismiss it because they didn't have my childhood and they kept trying to give it to me for free. And I started struggling that maybe I'd missed something because this whole loving heavenly Father image didn't fit my reality.

RHS: No, you had an experience with a father and you didn't want another one.

RM: Right, and all the kids I grew up with, I speak in boy's prisons, juvenile homes all the time and every time I ask this question; which of you boys want to be like your biological father. And never does a hand go up. Six weeks ago I was

up out of Santa Barbara Los Prietos Boys camp. Seventy-five boys, the director said you can't put them in one room; they'll have a fight. I said bring them on. They kept me for two and a half hours. I asked that question; none of their hands went up. Boys like us don't want to be like our biological fathers. So when I started reading the Jesus books I had lots of struggles and time doesn't permit the full testimony here, but I basically..

RHS: Do you tell them in the book?

RM: ..I tell them in the book.

RHS: Please buy the book.

RM: It starts when I was three and ends at our wedding. But I basically like C.S. Lewis decided this guy is either a liar, he's a lunatic or he's really Lord, but there's nothing in between.

RHS: It's very true.

RM: And in September of 1971 I prayed a very unconventional prayer in the orphanage. I said Jesus if You're real and You'll come into my nightmare and change me and forgive me of my sins then I'm Yours. But if You won't, You're a fraud. Not a traditional sinner's prayer. And sir I didn't hear angels sing, I didn't roll on the floor in spiritual ecstasy but in a moment I knew. I absolutely knew that the Holy God of the Universe had reached out of heaven and touched the heart of an angry bitter punk in an orphanage and began to change my life.

RHS: Well then you got married, thank God, to a good woman. And I'm assuming your wife Susan was is that lady.

RM: Oh very much so.

RHS: How did you earn money? What did you do? Or are you broke now?

RM: No I'm far from broke.

RHS: You're financially independent is a modest statement.

RM: Yes, I'm a multi millionaire; my income puts me in the top two percent of all Americans. I've been recognized as one of America's top financial consultants. But that's the end of the story and I celebrate that and I celebrate my wife, but earning a living, figuring out how to balance a checkbook, those were all struggles. Struggles to be the guy God called me to be. And one of those calls sir, that I know you've preached on often was God called me through Corrie ten Boom to forgive the people who had wounded me the most. And I remember in that struggle saying wait a minute God: the grandmother I need to forgive is dead, my father is brain dead, my mother is either locked down psychiatric or wandering the streets of Chicago where she died a bag lady. What difference does it make? They'll never know.

RHS: What difference does it make?

RM: But I have found God to be terribly inconvenient some times. And when I was finished forgiving them which was very painful and very difficult, what I learned was forgiving didn't free them, it freed me.

RHS: That's so true.

RM: It freed me to become the man God imagined I could be. The possibility He imagined I could be.

RHS: So true. Well thank you for the book, go out and buy it and its Castaway Kid. And remember what Dr. Carson says buy a box of Kleenex. You're going to need it before you page on to page two and you're going to need it all through the book. Amazing story.

RM: Thank you.

RHS: God loves you and so do I.

RM: Thank you sir.

RHS: Thank you, thank you.

RHS INTRODUCES KEN MEDEMA

RHS: Now it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome one of the great people who's been like a member to my family for 20/30 years. Totally sightless but totally talented Ken Medema. What are you singing today?

KEN: Well, the song that you're going to hear today was originally written as the last piece in a musical about Jacob and Esau called Live from Jacob's Ladder. And the scene is Jacob and his brother Esau, who have been alienated for 20 years are standing together on a narrow bridge over a tiny, dirty stream, looking at each other and wondering can we find forgiveness and healing of the heart?

SOLO – KEN MEDEMA – “Healing of the Heart” Pathways are chosen, years go by. Feelings get frozen and tear ducts run dry. It's time to move on now, so I'll try to forget all the ways that you hurt me, all the rage and regret.

Where, where do we begin? Tell me how, how do we even start, start to walk, to walk across that long, long bridge on the road to forgiveness and the healing of the heart.

How did we get here, standing face to face on this bridge that could crumble beneath us such a dangerous place? We reach out our hands now so fragile, so frail. Oh God, are You with us, and what if we fail?

How, oh tell me where do we begin? Somebody tell me how, how do we even start? How do we start to walk, to walk across that long, long bridge on the road to forgiveness? Long, long road to forgiveness. All the way down to forgiveness and the healing of the heart. Long way to forgiveness and the healing of the heart.

RAS THANK YOU TO KEN MEDEMA

RAS: Ken, you're terrific. We love you, you're great, we appreciate your music, we appreciate your spirit and everything you do to help us worship.

KM: Always good to be here. Thank you.

RAS: We'll see you again soon I'm sure.

KM: You will indeed.

RAS: If you want to get a copy of his CD it's called Sea Change. You can go over to the Visitor's Center and you can get a copy there this morning. You can always go online at hourofpower.org and you can get a copy there. And so I encourage you to do that, and while you're there, you can sign up for our daily e-mails, and it's a wonderful way to start the day. I get mine every morning and I read them and they're absolutely tremendous. So let me ask a question. How many people do get our daily e-mails? Can I see a show of hands? Oh this is tremendous. We have just tremendous opportunity for growth because I noticed how many don't, so go online and sign up. It's free, it doesn't cost you anything to sign up and you can get our daily e-mails.

RAS PRAYER FOR SIOUX CITY & THE WORLD

RAS: You know I want to have a special tribute right now and a time of silence for all of the people who are really going through some really tough times, specifically the tornado victims in Sioux County, the young boys who lost their lives when the tornado came through there and also for all the flood victims in Cedar Rapids. I just want to have a moment of silence to think of and all the other people across the nation, around the world who are really going through tough

times right now. Let's just pray in silence. Oh Lord You are good. You're graciousness is beyond compassion, beyond our capability to understand. So we give You praise and honor always, amen.

GUEST ENSEMBLE – CCHS MALE ENSEMBLE – “Prayer of the Children”

Can you hear the prayer of the children on bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room? Reaching hands with nothing to hold on to but hope for a better day, a better day.

Crying Jesus help me to feel the love again in my own land, but if un-known roads lead away from home, give me loving arms, away from harm.

Can you hear the voice of the children soft pleading for silence in their shattered world? Empty eyes with no more tears to cry, turning heavenward toward the light.

Crying Jesus help me to feel the sun again upon my face? For when darkness clears, I know You're near, bringing peace again. (SINGING IN SERBIAN) Can you hear the prayer of the children?

RAS THANK YOU TO THE CCHS MALE ENSEMBLE

RAS: I want to thank you gentlemen for coming and for sharing your voices with us. Their director is Anna DeLeon. Thank you Anna for being here.

MESSAGE/PRAYER - ROBERT A. SCHULLER

"Power for Life"

RAS: My message for you today is a message of where we find power, you know power for life. And for me, I've always found my power and my power in living; I found it in the bible. And that's why we have our new bible called the Power for Life bible because that's where we find our life and that's where we find our power. And I received my first bible; in fact this is my very first bible. It is an old revised red-letter edition of the holy bible and it has a little zipper that goes around it. Does anyone recognize these old bibles? I'll tell you, this was my very first bible and inside it says, "presented to Robert Anthony Schuller by mom and dad October 7th, 1963, his 9th birthday." Isn't that nice? And that's my very first bible. And I took this bible and I actually had different people sign it, I have Catherine Marshall's signature in here, and Billy Graham's, and a few other people that you might recognize and this is my original bible that I had as a young man and by the time I got into high school, I was in high school in the late 60's and early 70's, so I had what I called my hippy bible. And my hippy bible was actually the living bible, it had just come out, and I made a leather case for it, a homemade leather case and I glued that to the outside of the bible and it had a snap on it, and that's the bible I used all through high school. And I was sitting in my study today and I was counting how many bibles I have in there, and I counted over 20 bibles in my study alone. That doesn't include the bibles I have in my home and in the office that I have here in the Cathedral and other places.

And why do I have so many bibles? Its not that I go around collecting bibles. It's because I find that I have a need for the bible. And that as I find a need, I always want to find a new translation. I always want to find something new and that's

why I have so many bibles. And I do that because that's where I find my power for life, without question, that's where I find it.

My son Anthony was probably seven years old, because he could barely read, and we had both, my wife and I had given our children the children's bible, which is a bible which has a picture and then underneath that picture it has a little story, a bible story, and its probably two, three hundred pages long with maybe 50 stories in it. Well this was the bible he had when he was in second grade, and one day he came running into the house, he was very upset, he went running upstairs to his bedroom and he grabbed his bible and he started heading downstairs and I said Anthony, what's going on? He goes he's got to learn. He's got to learn. I go what's the matter? He goes my friend doesn't believe that Jesus exists. He thinks Jesus is fake. I've got to show him, I've got to show him what the truth is. And he went running outside with his bible, and I looked outside and a couple moments later, here was Anthony and his friend sitting on the steps up to the front door of our house, reading his bible. Today he and his friend are still good friends, in fact his friend, when he became a freshman in high school became a Christian. He then led his whole entire family to Christ, and here is another family who's committed to Jesus Christ because of the power in the bible. I am convinced that we find our power for life here within these words. That these words speak to us. They penetrate to the very core of who we are and they give us hope when there's hopelessness, they give us direction when we're lost, they give us inspiration when we're down trodden.

So this morning I just want to give you a few words. Words from Jesus which are contained within our bible, and I'm going to read from John chapter 14 and if you have a Power for Life bible, it would be on page 1125 and I'm reading verse 12, that says "Very truly I tell you, all who have faith in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater works than these because I am going to the father. I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask Me for anything in My name and I will do it." How powerful is that?

Jesus Himself tells us directly, promises to us that if we ask anything in His name, He will do it. When you think there is no hope, there is. You must realize when you feel like you've come to the end of your ropes and there absolutely is no hope, that there is hope! The promises are true, the promises are real. As you come before Jesus Christ and you ask Him in His name, you can do all things. You can move mountains, says Jesus. You can change the world. You can do anything that Jesus did in His name.

I have tremendous hope for the future of the church. When my son graduated from seminary on June 14th, 2008, he did not graduate alone. He was not the only person in that class, in fact the president, Richard Mouw, made an announcement. He said we have over 800 students who are graduating today. Did you hear me? 800 students! He says I know for a fact this is the largest graduating class in the history of Fuller Seminary. I am quite confident that this is the largest graduating class in any seminary in history. What does the future hold for the kingdom of God today? And people who claim there is no hope, that the future generations are falling and that they're just nothing but sex, drugs and alcohol, I want to take you to Fuller Seminary and see what God is doing in the body of Christ today. The future of America, of the world has never been brighter, has never been stronger, and God is doing something in the hearts and the minds of people across this nation and around the world and you can applaud that because God is real.

God is doing a miraculous work in the lives of His church that we've never seen before and we are just beginning to see what's happening in our world.

My son, my other son, Anthony on Tuesday will be leaving for Nepal and Thailand and he's going to go on a mission's trip. He's not going alone he's going with many, many other young people. My daughter is, her hearts breaking because she wanted to go with them but she was unable to go because she is going to be studying in Oxford this summer. And he's going to be going over first to Nepal and then to Thailand. In Nepal they're going to be giving eyeglasses to people who can't read. They can't read because they can't see, they can't see because they don't have glasses. They don't have glasses because they don't have the means to go and get their eyes examined and they can't afford to have glasses. So they're going there with thousands of pairs of glasses, giving them eye exams and allowing them to read for the first time. They're going to be able to read again. That's what he's doing in Nepal and then from there he's going to Thailand and in Thailand he's working with a group of people who are helping young girls and young people who are stuck in human trafficking. It's not uncommon in other parts of the world where families will sell their children when they're 12 or 13 years old to pimps, who will use these children until they're of no use anymore and then just toss them away like a piece of garbage. And there are people in the world today who care about this, who are doing something about it and Anthony's connected with them. And my son Anthony is going to go there and see what he can do to make a difference in the world. I'm telling you we have a generation of young people who are coming up and growing up and going to take a hold of this world and make a difference in the world. If you think there is no hope there is.

First time I went to Thailand was probably twenty years ago. And when I went there I saw this massive elephant who was being used like we would use tractors and like we'd use bulldozers. He was moving logs and he was pulling these huge wagons and he was being used like a tractor. And after he got done doing that his owner took him, put a chain around his back leg, drove a stake in the ground with a hammer and put this chain, one of the links of the chain over the stake in the ground. So this elephant is being contained by one tiny little stake that is driven into the ground. And then the chain goes and goes around his leg. I saw that and I went up to the guy and I said now let me get this straight: you're going to control this elephant whose been pulling these huge wagons and moving these huge logs and you're going to keep him right there with this one little stake that you've driven into the ground. He says oh yeah, no problem. Why wouldn't this elephant walk away? And he explained. He said when the elephant is small, we get them when they are small and we train them. Well how do you train them? He says well we put the chain around their leg and then we tie the chain around a banyan tree and for the next couple of years the elephant will pull against this chain that is tied to the banyan tree and after two years he realizes that all he's going to do is cause pain to his leg by trying to pull the banyan tree. And after a year or so he quits pulling and as soon as he feels any pressure on his leg whatsoever he doesn't pull. And so at that point all you need to do is replace the banyan tree with a stake and he doesn't move.

How many of us today are living hopeless lives, living it over and over again because we have been told certain things and believe certain things that hold us back. And yet the promises of Jesus Christ are true and are real. I read them to you today. "You may ask Me for anything in My name and I will do it." And yet we hold onto the fact that we have no hope. Why? Because a doctor tells us there's no hope. And I can tell you hundreds of stories of people who've been told by doctors there's nothing we can do and have gone home and have survived.

In fact this week, I met a woman. Had dinner, my wife and I had dinner with this couple, and they shared with us their miracle. The miracle was his wife had lung cancer. And she went and she had the tumor removed, she had chemotherapy and she was clean of the cancer for approximately a year, and only a few months ago, she went back to the doctor because she had some pain and they examined her and she didn't another tumor in her lung, she had four tumors, two in each: One in the bottom, one in the top, one in the bottom, one in the top. There was nothing the doctors could do. They said there is no hope. She didn't accept that. And she found a doctor in Korea and he went and he used genetic engineering to change the cancer cells in her body and within a few weeks, the masses were gone and he said you will never get lung cancer again, and she came home and she is well and she is live and she is breathing and that was only 6 months ago. When you think there is no hope, there is! There is always hope as we hold onto the promises and the truth of God's reality and goodness for us.

But let me conclude by sharing with you a poem. It was written by R.L. Sharp and it says this: "Isn't it strange that princes and kings and clowns that caper and sawdust rings and common people like you and me are builders for eternity? Each of us is given a bag of tools, a shapeless mass, a book of rules. And each must make your life as flown a stumbling block or a stepping-stone." As we struggle with challenges in life hold on to hope and take that challenge and turn it into a stepping-stone that leads to the glory of God. For God is at work today tomorrow and always. And he's using you and all of the struggles you're having to make a difference.

Dear heavenly father we thank You that You're a God who comes and touches hearts and minds with the reality of Your power, that through You we can find power for life. As we have the power of Jesus' name we can move mountains, we can find healing, we can find hope. So touch our hearts, touch our lives, touch every part of our being with Your presence today, tomorrow and always, Amen.

HYMN - "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!

BENEDICTION - RAS

RAS: And with that, let me give you a benediction. And now may the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit touch your hearts and your minds with the reality of God's power, that through Jesus Christ you can do anything and everything. So go in God's power and live. Amen.

HYMN - "Medley – Challenge/Take My Life/Spirit of the Living God"

Challenge us, O God, our Father, move within our lives today;
Cultivate a sense of mission in our hearts and minds we pray. Help us to renew commitment to a way of life in You which interprets for all people how Your truth will make them new.

Take my life and make it new, let me walk, O Lord, with You. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Your love, at the impulse of Your love.

Take my lips and let them share Your great love and boundless care. Take myself and I will do all things, only, all for You, all things, only, all for You.

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.