

HOUR OF POWER OF 29.03.2009

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: Brian Mackert grew up a child of polygamy, one of 31 children. He even plotted to kill his father for the abuse he and his sisters suffered, but through the love of God, learned to forgive.

BRIAN: When you learn to forgive, not because you're waiting for a feeling to happen but you make the decision that you're no longer going to hold someone else accountable whose offended you, you let go of that bitterness and that anger, and much like the anger that I had towards my father, I was able to let go of that anger that I had towards my father and then God was able to come in and heal me.

VO: Also today, soloist Jazmin Mendez.

JAZMIN: I will choose Christ, I will choose love, I choose to serve.

VO: Then Dr. Robert Schuller welcomes one of the most successful pastors in America today, Francis Chan from Cornerstone Church in Southern California with a powerful question for each and every one of us.

FRANCIS: And I guess the question I want to start off with this morning is can you honestly say you are in love with Jesus Christ this morning, madly in love with Him, the person.

VO: Join us today for the best hour on television, the Hour of Power from the Crystal Cathedral.

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/INVOCATION

RHS: Good morning! Hello! This is a great place. Anybody here that's never been here before? Oh my goodness. Thank you very much. Where'd you come from? Germany? Iowa, I've heard of that. Yep, I'm born in Iowa. Well, welcome. This is a great place because the people who come here are coming not just for entertainment, you've come here to have an experience with God and that you are having right now for I am speaking the words that God is pouring out of my lips. Welcome to His house. Yeah. Let's pray:

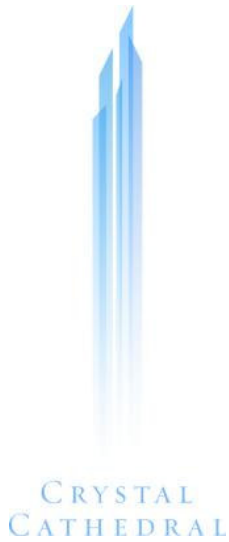
God, I don't have any idea where everybody's coming from but I know, Lord, that most of them really love You and they believe in You and they know they need You and they're trusting You and they're praying and believing that this morning is going to be special in their life. So their hearts are opening to You and we are praying that You will meet them where they need it most, Amen.

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.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame
from everlasting, You are God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Your sight are like an evening gone; Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.



Hour of Power Schweiz
Seestrasse 34
CH-3700 Spiez

Telefon +41 (0) 33 655 06 36
Telefax +41 (0) 33 655 06 37

E-Mail: info@hourofpower.ch
www.hourofpower.ch

PC Zürich 17-260489-8

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.

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 100 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. Thank you for filling this auditorium with your glory to God through singing and voices. Do you know it's not much different going to church today than if you went to the church that Jesus went to, the Jewish synagogue. They would gather together once a week to glorify God and thank Him. And they would gather to share their faith, talking before and after the church services. And someone would be assigned to read a scripture from their bible, the Old Testament and share how God had blessed them and guided them. So we're pretty much the same, including music, which was very important in the synagogues of His day.

Now hear the word of scripture. It is from Psalm 100:

Shout for joy to the Lord. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Wow this is an invitation to church, the synagogue that Jesus attended. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; We are His people, we are the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. You may notice that that bible verse is in brass at the grand entrance to this Cathedral grounds. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.

This is the word of the Lord.

ANTHEM - "A Joyful Noise"

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Come before His presence with singing! Come before His presence! Come before His presence with singing! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Know that the Lord is God; It is He who has made us! We are His people, the sheep of His pasture; And He will keep us and watch over us; Our shepherd forever and ever.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Come before His presence with singing! Come before His presence! Come before His presence with singing! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

While I have breath I will praise Him; I will sing of His boundless mercy; Lifting my heart and soul to the rock of my salvation; For He will hear me and lead me day by day; My shepherd forever and ever.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all people! Come before His presence with singing! Come before His presence with singing! Make a joyful noise, a joyful noise; make a joyful noise unto the Lord forever! Hallelujah!

RHS THANK YOU TO CATHEDRAL CHOIR

RHS: Thank you Donald Neuen, thank you choir, you're the best.

INTERVIEW – BRIAN MACKERT

RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER BM: BRIAN MACKERT

RHS: My guest today is Brian Mackert. He is a walking example of turning scars into stars, a living example of the positive life changing power of Jesus Christ. Check this: he was born and grew up in an abusive home, with a polygamist family, one father, four mothers, 31 children. Brian's life journey eventually brought him from a broken life to a healed soul when he met his heavenly Father. He's captured his story in this new book called *Illegitimate: How a loving God rescues a son of polygamy*. A universal story; it tells of God's faithfulness and unflinching love. Please welcome with me Brian Mackert.

BM: Thank you Dr. Schuller.

RHS: Tell me about your childhood. What was it like? It was a fully polygamist family?

BM: Yes, my father had four wives and 31 children. I was his 28th child. And in a polygamist home, the demands were made on the young men are something the media hasn't caught wind of yet. Many of these young men who grow up in polygamist homes have to be driven from the community in order to make room for the elite to be able to have their multiple marriages. And so about 75% of the male population is driven out and the way they do that is they make life so hard for these young men, the tenants of their faith are so demanding that many of these young men lose heart and end up leaving on their own. If they aren't smart enough to get it they're driven to a near by town and told not to come back to the community. And so many of these young men when they leave, they're told that they have no worth to God, no worth to their community, no worth to their families, and they are sent into an outside world that they are told hates them and wants to destroy them. And they have these low self esteem as a result and many of them turn to alcohol and drugs. The demands of the faith and the way I was brought up were so demanding on me that I even began to plot the murder of my own father..

RHS: Seriously?

BM: ..seriously, to seek revenge and gain justice for my sisters who were being molested by him. Here I had this man who taught me this code of honor where women were to be revered and respected and protected because they brought life into this world and this man who taught me this code of honor was the man who was so brazenly violating it. And so I wanted to get justice for my sister and that's why I began to plot his murder.

RHS: How would you do that?

BM: Well I had decided to go get myself a gun and I began doing some target practicing and I began shooting pictures of my father that I pinned up on a cardboard box to prepare myself mentally. Fortunately for me though I was in the Navy at the time and I was caught on a drug urinalysis because I was self medicating to try and keep from feeling this pain. And when I went into counseling for my drug abuse, it came out that I was plotting the murder of my father and I was able to get the help that I needed to rationalize that the murder of my father would not change the pain that my sisters were experiencing, it would only make matters worse. And so I decided at that point that I would not go ahead and carry out the murder of my father. And fortunately later on when I came to know the Lord, that's when the real change took place.

RHS: How did you come to know the Lord?

BM: Well I married a gal who was raised in a Christian home and when we found out we were going to have a baby, we decided we needed to be united in what we teach our child about God. And so she began questioning me about what it was that I was raised with and she couldn't bring herself to live that way, either. And so I said well as long as we go to a church that teaches that Jesus is the son of God, who died for my sins on the cross, who was raised from the grave, and preaches from the bible, I don't have a problem with it. So we began going to this little Baptist church in Okinawa Japan and when we were there, the pastor started preaching about the new creation that comes for those who are in Christ. And as I'd look in the mirror and reflect on what the pastor said, I didn't see anything new about myself. I was the same person I had always been. And the only thing that had changed about Brian was that Brian had gotten better at hiding his sin from God and from other people from finding out Brian's sin. And so I began to question God and I said God where's this change? And God spoke to me and said Brian, what's wrong? I said my life's a mess. You said You'd make a new creation out of those who come to You. Why hasn't my life changed? And He said who died for your sins and I said well You did Lord. He said okay well what's missing? What haven't you done? And immediately Romans 10:9-11 came to my mind. I knew that I had not confessed with my mouth that Jesus is Lord. I hadn't asked Him to come into my life and change me. And so I confessed that to God and He said You wonder why sin still rules in your life? You wonder why your life hasn't been changed? I can't fix what you haven't given Me. And at that point..

RHS: Stop. That's a great; oh that's a great line.

BM: Yes.

RHS: I can't fix what you haven't given to Me.

BM: Amen.

RHS: Boy that could apply to a lot of people listening..

BM: Amen.

RHS: ..to this voice.

BM: Amen, and when God told me that, I realized He didn't want just a sinners prayer, what He wanted was my life. If He was going to fix my life, I needed to give my life to Him and make Him Lord of it.

RHS: Yes.

BM: Lord over all of it.

RHS: Yes.

BM: And so I pulled my car off to the side of the road because I was in this argument with God while I was driving on my way to work and I pulled my car off to the road so I could pray, and receive Christ as my Savior. And from that day on, my life has been changed.

RHS: You did.

BM: Yes sir.

RHS: And you drove safer?

BM: Yes I drove safely.

RHS: Brian you wrote a book.

BM: It's Illegitimate: How a loving God rescued a son of polygamy. And you can pick it up in the gift shop or anywhere that fine books are sold. But it focuses on my relationship with my earthly father and then my relationship with my heavenly Father and how He healed the wounds of the past.

RHS: Wow. Thank you for coming. Do you have a word for everybody that's listening? If you had one..

BM: Well..

RHS: ..one ten letter word, what would it be?

BM: Forgiveness. The healing power of Christ is the healing power of forgiveness. He said that if we would take off our yolk and put it at His feet, and take up His yolk which is the yolk of forgiveness, we would find rest for our souls. When you learn to forgive, not because you're waiting for a feeling to happen but you make the decision that you're no longer going to hold someone else accountable who's offended you, you let go of that bitterness and that anger and much like the anger that I had towards my father, I was able to let go of that anger that I had towards my father and then God was able to come in and heal me. God's request that I forgive my father, was all about what God wanted to do with me, how He wanted to change me.

RHS: Wow. What was the first step after that awareness?

BM: Calling my father and..

RHS: Really.

BM: ..and telling my father that I had forgiven him and asking him to forgive me for judging him, that I was not his judge.

RHS: Wow.

BM: And from that moment on, my father and I continued to talk to each other and..

RHS: Wonderful.

BM: ..interact with each other more and God began to heal that relationship.

RHS: Wonderful. Thank you for coming, for sharing your story.

BM: It's been a pleasure being on your program.

RHS: Thank you.

BM: God bless you.

HYMN - "Medley – All Hail/His Name is Wonderful/Jesus We Love"

All hail the power of Jesus' name, let all earth hear His call;

Let joyful songs of praise be sung to crown Him Lord of all; Let joyful songs of praise be sung to crown Him Lord of all!

To Christ the Savior of us all there is no great or small; In Him we live and move and breathe, so crown Him Lord of all; In Him we live and move and breathe, so crown Him Lord of all!

His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord. He is the mighty King, Master of everything, His name is wonderful, Jesus, My Lord. He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages, Almighty God is He; Bow down before Him, kneel and adore Him, His name is wonderful, Jesus, My Lord.

Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You; Glorify Your name in all the earth. Glorify Your name, glorify Your name, glorify Your name in all the earth. Glorify Your name, glorify Your name, glorify Your name in all the earth. His Name is wonderful.

RHS: You may be seated.

SOLO – JAZMIN MENDEZ – “I Will Choose Christ” I will choose Christ, I will choose love, I choose to serve. I give my heart, I give my life, I give my all to You. Some days are hard, and I fight to see the truth, but I'm going to take a stand in all I say and do.

I will choose Christ, I will choose love, I choose to serve. I give my heart, I give my life, I give my all to You. Some fall away and some refuse to see a willing and humble heart I pray You'll find in me.

I will choose Christ, I will choose love, I choose to serve. I give my heart, I give my life, I give my all to You. You are grace, You are peace, You are hope and healing, You are faith, You are joy, You are God revealing, Jesus, My Lord and King.

I will choose Christ, I will choose love, I choose to serve. I give my heart, I give my life, I give my all to You. I give my all to You.

RHS THANK YOU TO JAZMIN MENDEZ

RHS: Thank you Jazmin.

INTRODUCTION TO FRANCIS CHAN - RHS

RHS: My guest pastor today is Francis Chan. Francis has been the pastor of Cornerstone Church in Semi Valley California. I call him one of the greatest preachers in America today. He's been the pastor of the church for the past 14 years. It's been one of the largest and fastest growing churches in America. Hear me loud and clear. Why do so many people go to his church? In addition to his weekly teaching duties at this church, he is the chancellor and founder of Eternity Bible College and he serves on the board of directors for Children's Hunger Fund and World Impact, two wonderful ministries committed to serving the poorest members of the world. He travels around the world speaking to high school and college students, his passion to see the next generation of Christians display a much deeper love for Jesus. He has a new book and a DVD, its called Crazy Love. It's available through major book stores, wherever you live, you can order it. It's also available on the Hour of Power. It's a different story. Every human being is a different story. He's married to his wife Lisa and they have three daughters and one son. Welcome with me Francis Chan and listen to the sound of a voice that has something to say because he's had experiences you never had and God wanted you to get the message, so welcome Francis Chan.

MESSAGE/PRAYER – FRANCIS CHAN

"Living in Light of Eternity"

FC: You know I was listening to Brian when he was sharing his story and mine isn't as crazy as that, but from an early age, I understood what it meant to have loss and to suffer loss. My mother actually died giving birth to me, while she was giving birth to me and that's why my dad sent me to Hong Kong to live the first few years of my life with my grandmother. But then my dad remarried and I came back to the states and we had our family together again but then my step mother died in a car accident when I was around eight years old. And then my dad got married again and so the family is back together but then when I was 12, my dad died of cancer. And so from a very early age, I understood what it meant to lose something or the other thing that it taught me early on was just the brevity of life. See only very few people who take every day as a special day. I don't take today for granted. I don't just assume that tomorrow I'm going to wake up. But from a very early age, I began to think about James 4 where it says that this life is just a vapor. You're just here for a little while and then comes eternity. And so I understand that and so I don't take these next few minutes for granted. I go okay

you know what Lord, You still have me on this earth, I want to do something for Your glory. And I began understanding and thinking this way from an early age. But honestly most of my serving of God was done out of a sense of duty. It was a sense of responsibility or even fear. I didn't understand passages like Psalm 63 when it talks about this love relationship with God because so much of what I did in the past was out of religion.

See in Psalm 63, you have David saying oh God, You are my God. Earnestly I seek You. My soul thirsts for You. My flesh faints for You as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. David's out in the desert, hasn't had anything to drink in a long time and he's saying God, You know what, as much as I'd love a glass of water, I want You even more than that. My soul is longing for You, the very person of God.

I guess the question I want to start off with this morning is can you honestly say you are in love with Jesus Christ this morning? Madly in love with Him, the person. Where He says You're love is better than life.

I've preached in a lot of places and met thousands of people and thousands of church goers, thousands of people who have done wonderful things in the name of Jesus Christ, yet I can honestly say I've only met a few people that I can say are genuinely in love with Jesus, in love with the person of God. There are many people who love the thought of there being an almighty being up there, there are a lot of people who are in love with the thought of that God loving us, but I've met very few people I can say wow, he or she is truly in love with this person.

One of the people that I've met who just madly in love with Jesus Christ is my wife's grandmother. My wife's grandmother is one of those people where my wife would tell me growing up, you know, grandma lived in the home and she could hear her in the bedroom next to her weeping and crying as she's talking to Jesus every single morning. She told me about how, as a little girl, grandma would say gosh I always pray right there at that corner of the bed and even during the day when I would pass that corner of the bed, she goes I would get weepy and tell Jesus I can't wait till tomorrow morning where You and I can just have that time alone together. She just loved, loved Jesus. I remember one time being at a play with my wife and several of her relatives and I was sitting next to grandma Clara and I remember during the intermission, I looked over at grandma Clara. She was around 90 or so, and I looked over at grandma Clara and I said how do you like the play so far? And she looks at me and she goes, I don't want to be here. I don't want to be here. And I was like why, there's nothing wrong with the play, everything seems good and she goes I just don't know if this is where I want to be when Jesus returns. She goes I think I'd rather be in my room on my knees praying for you and for the church, or I'd rather be helping someone but I don't want Him to find me just sitting here watching a play. I want Him to see that I'm praying to Him and serving Him the moment He returns.

And that blew my mind because all my life I've heard about this book. I've heard people teach this book about Christ returning at any time and you better be ready, but that was the first time in my life I actually sat next to someone who lives that out. Who thinks every moment of her life wow, this could be the moment when the love of my life returns. This could be the moment when Jesus comes back and she just constantly, every time we called, she'd be talking about her relationship with Jesus and how much she loved Him. It wasn't just this concept of a being up there, she was madly in love with Him. She modeled for me so much of what the scriptures teach when Paul says for me to live is Christ and to die is gain. It seemed like every time I saw her she would tell me about how she so wanted to die, not because she hated life on earth but because she so longed to see the face

of God. Can you say that about yourself this morning, that you're so in love with Jesus and the greatest thing that could happen today is for Him to return and for you to see His face.

See I meet far too many believers who secretly wish Jesus wouldn't return just yet. But is the desire of your heart, like John says come, Lord Jesus.

I want to focus on a verse today, its Philippians chapter 3, verse 10. And Philippians 3:10, Paul says that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Paul talks about this obsession he has with Jesus Christ and he says this is all. He says everything else I count as rubbish compared to knowing Jesus. And he says I just want to know Him and again there's the idea I want to know Him. A lot of times, people attend church, not because they really want to know Him, they come because they want something from Him. They like Him for what He offers but how many really love Him. I read a quote a few years back that just absolutely floored me. It was in a book by a man named John Piper, called God is the Gospel. And in this book, he asks this question, he says the critical question for our generation and for every generation is this: if you could have heaven with no sickness and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven if Christ was not there. It was a great question. He goes come on, you can have everything, you can have heaven right now. No more pain, no more tears, all the friends you ever had, all the physical pleasures you've ever experienced, no pain, no conflict, all the beauty but Jesus wasn't there, could you be content? Could you honestly answer no, I couldn't stand that because I love Him. I'd have to have Him there. If He's not there, then its not heaven. See that's what it means to be in love with Jesus and not just the things that He offers. Otherwise it would be no different than marrying someone for their money. That's about saying I love Jesus Christ. I love him.

I've been in some beautiful places around this earth, traveling around and it's interesting because so many of those places as beautiful as they are, I don't really enjoy it because maybe my wife couldn't come with me. I don't know if you've ever been in a place where everything's beautiful except the person you love isn't there. And suddenly it's like oh, it doesn't matter how beautiful the scenery is, it's different because I wanted to experience it with her and is that true of your relationship with Jesus Christ, that it's Him that you're madly in love with. And heaven wouldn't be heaven without Him because the other stuff is just stuff. I just meet far too many people who don't really want to know Him. But they come to church for what He offers and they're in love with what He might offer them rather than He Himself.

But Paul says in the verse preceding, in verse 8, actually it says indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish in order that I may gain Christ. See the bible doesn't say.. I meet many people who say well I'll follow Jesus if: if I can have this or as long as I don't have to give this up, then I'll follow Jesus if. You guys, but the bible does not teach about following Jesus if. The bible is about following Jesus even if. The bible is Jesus saying look you may lose everything but am I worth it to you? And the apostles were the people who says look I'll give up everything for You. I'll follow You even if I lose my family, if I lose my money, I lose my home, Jesus says look

foxes have holes, birds have nests in the air, in the trees, but I have no where to lay my head. Will you still follow Me? And His disciples were saying you know what I'll follow You even if I don't have anything. Jesus, the kingdom of heaven is like a man who found a treasure in a field and this treasure was so wonderful that with great joy, he went and sold everything else he had to get that field. Do you see Jesus as that treasure where you say you know what, I would follow Him even if I lost everything else. It's the beauty of Jesus. It's Jesus that you long for. And it's Jesus that brings you contentment even if. He says I want to know Him and the power of His resurrection. Paul says I don't just want to know Jesus, you know, I want to know Him and I want to know His power.

I remember when I was younger and I would read those passages about God and His power, it used to bring tremendous fear into me. I used to look at those passages, I mean there's still a sense of fear and reverence, but I would read a passage like Isaiah 6 and Isaiah 6 would talk about this God sitting on this throne and the train of His robe filling the entire temple. And the angels covering themselves up, you know, and it's from head to toe and scream holy, holy, holy. And I would picture myself standing before this being one day, sitting on this throne that filled the whole temple and these angels screaming out His holiness and I would look at those passages where the bible would say that there's a being up there in heaven who dwells in unapproachable light. And His holiness and I would picture myself coming into His presence and I would physically shake because of the thought of the power of God. And while there's still a sense of reverence for this God and absolutely a sense of fear like the bible teaches, I've learned to love the power of God. It's become my greatest sense of security because the bible says if He is for us, who can be against us. And there's a sense of wow that being sitting on His throne, that's the love of my life. He calls me son. He calls me His friend. He calls those of us who follow Him His bride. And St. Paul says I want to know Him, I want to know the power of His resurrection and I would have loved if the verse ended there. For many years, I would have loved if Philippians 10 just ended there. I want to know Christ, I want to know the power of His resurrection but it doesn't end there.

The next phrase says and may share in His sufferings. See I didn't like that. I'm good with the first part. I want to know Christ. I'm good with the second part. I want to know His power, but share in His sufferings? See the truth is, I didn't want to be like Jesus, I wanted what He offered but I didn't want to be like Him. I didn't think, you know, it wasn't like first John where first John says anyone who claims to know Him must walk as Jesus walked. See I didn't really want to walk like Jesus walked. When I first became a believer, I thought no I want His power, I want to go to heaven, I want a relationship with Him but I don't want to be like Jesus. I don't want to sacrifice like Jesus sacrificed. I don't want to suffer like Jesus suffered. I want to be a little more popular than Jesus. I want to be a more popular version of Jesus where people didn't hate me and people didn't curse me and those types of things. And certainly I don't want to be crucified like Christ was. But Paul says no I want everything of Jesus. Then I struggled with this and then you know what changed me, helped me understand this was my first trip to Africa.

My first trip to Uganda, I remember just seeing these kids. You know I always saw it on television, you know, the starving kids and you know sponsor a child this or that, but when I got there, and I began to meet these children, I began to love these children and all those verses came to my head of love your neighbor as yourself and all those verses like Matthew 25 came to my mind of whatever you do for the least of these, you've done for Me. And I'm thinking well I need to

treat that little orphan like Jesus. And I began to love on these children and then I came home and I looked at my church and I go gosh, I was just in this village where the kids and they don't have anything to eat, you know they don't have anything to wear, they're not being educated, they don't have anything. We've got to do something. And I remember my church responded and we started giving hundreds of thousands of dollars and we started building schools and orphanages and everything else and a couple of years ago, I got to go back to this place where there was nothing and now I'm seeing a schoolhouse, I'm seeing you know kids getting vitamins, clothes, shoes, everything else and they're in this room, hundreds, picture hundreds of Ugandan orphans in this room. They're singing praises to God during school and I just kind of snuck in in the back. As I snuck in the back, the teacher stops the class and says everyone, I want you to stop and look to the back of the room. She goes in the back is Pastor Francis Chan. And there were hundreds of kids in the room and she goes I want you to know that every single one of you is sponsored by someone in His church. They're the ones that built the school, they're the ones who take care of you, and to have several hundred orphan kids stand up and start screaming at the top of their lungs, and clapping with these big smiles on their faces, at that moment it may have been the happiest moment of my life. I started welling up with tears. I started thinking wow I could die right now. This is just the greatest. I'm telling you, it finally went full circle where I understood. You know what Jesus says it's better to give than to receive. And I tell you that moment you felt it. That moment I go okay, you tell me, you tell me driving a nice car is better than this feeling I have right now. You tell me its better to be in a big house or have a big bank account than the feeling I feel right now, seeing these orphans, seeing their joy, being able to give and be a small part of that. See it's not about sacrifice in the sense of us being these martyrs.

I want to close with this passage. It's Matthew 19, verse 28, after Peter is talking to Jesus and says Jesus we gave everything up for You. And Jesus says this: truly I say to you, in the new world, when the son of man will sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sister or father or mother or children or lands for My name sake, will receive a hundred fold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last and the last will be first. He tells Peter I know you sacrificed a lot. He goes but just remember at the end, those of you who are last, you're going to be first. Don't think oh look at me, I gave up so much. God looks at him, Jesus says you're going to receive a hundred times that in the life to come. It's this focus on eternity and living for that moment when we see God because our life on earth is just a vapor. And we have to be getting ready for that day.

Can I pray for us? Father, keep us focused on our eternity with You. May we not fall in love with the things of this world. But may we be people who are just madly in love with You and can honestly say Your love is better than life. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

ANTHEM - "Living for Jesus"

Living for Jesus a life that is true. Striving to please Him in all that I do. Yielding allegiance, glad hearted and free this is the pathway of blessing for me.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior I give myself to Thee, for Thou in Thine atonement didst give Thyself for me. I own no other master, my heart shall be Thy throne; My life I give, henceforth to live. O Christ, for Thee alone.

Living for Jesus wherever I am, doing each duty in His holy name; Willing to suffer affliction and loss, taking each trial a part of my cross.

Living for Jesus through earth's little while my dearest treasure the light of His smile seeking the lost ones He died to redeem, bringing the weary to find rest in Him.

O Jesus, Lord and Savior I give myself to Thee, for Thou, in Thine atonement, didst give Thyself for me. I own no other master, my heart shall be Thy throne; My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ for Thee alone.

BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: Thank you Francis Chan. What a message from God. We were in God's presence with you today.

Now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. And may God give you peace in your going out and in your coming in, in your lying down and in your rising up, in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears until you stand all alone in front of Jesus and give you peace forevermore, Amen.