



HOUR OF POWER OF 03.05.2009

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: The director of pediatric surgery at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Ben Carson, was the first to separate conjoined twins and now his life story of medicine and faith in God has been captured in a movie by the TNT Network, starring Cuba Gooding, Jr.

BEN: I must say that, you know, God helped to orchestrate this incredible operation that took 22 hours, at that time was thought to be the most complex operation known to man. I felt very, very fortunate to be the leader of that team.

VO: Also today, music by soloist Daniel McGrew.

DANIEL: A gentle handsome child was He, the boy who just turned three.

VO: Then Dr. Robert Schuller welcomes Nick Vujicic; born without arms or legs but with an incredible heart to give you the hope that can only come from God Almighty.

NICK: You are a miracle. You are a miracle. God can use all things if you give Him first of all – delight yourself in the Lord. Who He is to you.

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

RHS: Wow! What a choir you are! Thank you for coming. This is the day that God has made. Why? And why are you included in it? What is He up to? I don't know. So, we can all expect surprises in the heart in these minutes. One thing is true: this is the first day of the rest of history.

And so dear God bless every person who has come. Many have come just to give; to give thanks, to give their gifts of love and gratitude, to give their hearts fresh bright clean a new to Jesus Christ. And oh God we've all come to say thank You. We're here, we've made it. To look back and if we knew what You know it's a miracle we're alive. We don't know how often You've touched us to save us. And oh God we're here to be shaped to change for the better. New opportunities are with us that never were here before. Help us to see them, to size them up and then to seize them in the name of Christ, Amen.

HYMN - "Medley – O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

Jesus, the name that calms my fears, that bids my sorrows cease: Its music to my list'ning ears of life and health and peace.

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Blessed assurance, Jesus is Mine! O, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee. Holy! Holy! Holy! Merciful and Mighty! God in three persons; blessed Trinity!

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 37 - ORTIZ

JCO: You may be seated, thank you. Let us open our hearts for the word of the Lord. From Psalm 37:

Trust in the Lord and do good then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the Lord and He will give you your hearts desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord, trust Him and He will help you. He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn and the justice of your cause will shine like the noon day sun. Be still in the presence of the Lord and wait patiently for Him to act. Day by day the Lord takes care of the innocent and they will receive an inheritance that lasts forever. The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.

This is the word of the Lord.

JUAN CARLOS ORTIZ INTRODUCES GUEST CHOIR

ORTIZ: And now let us prepare our hearts to hear this wonderful choir God sent to us today from the Indiana Wesleyan University. The director is Dr. Todd Guy. Welcome, dear choir.

ANTHEM/GUEST CHOIR – INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
CHORALE - "Let the People Praise Thee, O God"

Let the people praise thee, O God: Yea, let all the people praise thee. O let the nations rejoice and be glad, O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for thou shalt judge the folk righteously and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God: Yea, let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, even our own God, shall give us His blessing. God shall bless us: and all the ends of the world shall fear Him, shall fear Him, shall fear Him.

Let all the people praise thee, O God: Let all the people praise thee, O God: Let all the people praise thee, O God: Yea, let all the people praise thee. O let the nations rejoice and be glad, and be glad! Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end, world without end, world without end. Amen!

RHS THANK YOU TO CHOIR

RHS: Thank you choir.

INTERVIEW – Dr. BENJAMIN CARSON

RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER BC: BEN CARSON

RHS: Now I introduce my guest of the day; 1977 a young man named Dr. Ben Carson became the first doctor in history to successfully separate vertically joined, conjoined twins. Imagine. First in history. Today, Ben remains the director of pediatric neuro-surgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Center. Recently a TNT movie was made about Ben's life called "Gifted Hands;" it starred Oscar Award winning actor Cuba Gooding Jr. as Dr. Ben Carson.

I have a little clip here; it's about Ben when he was a young boy. Ran with the guys in the streets and you will see it's been created by film makers how he got mad at another street kid, pulled out his knife to stab the kid in the stomach but the knife hit the belt buckle and didn't go in and it scared him so much he ran home to his home, found a bible, became a Christian and said I'm not going to kill people I'm going to heal people and boy has he ever done that. Watch for the clip. (VIDEO CLIP ROLLS)

MALE: You like this? You call this music?

MALE: It's better than what you like.

MALE: Hey man, quit proving how stupid you are.

MALE: Don't act so ignorant.

MALE: Go to hell.

MALE: What did you say to me?

MALE: Get off me!

MALE: Benny! What did you do?

MALE: He's all right! Get a teacher or something!

MALE: Lord, Lord You have to take this temper away from me. Please, please take it. Jesus is all the world to me; my life, my joy, my all. He is my strength from day to day; without Him I would fall. When I am sad to Him I go.

(END OF VIDEO ROLL IN)

RHS: He's a trusted friend; I've known him for years not only a great doctor but a man of great faith. The first doctor to try separating successfully conjoined twins. Now that took faith. So he's with us today. He has a new book out I'd like you to find out about but right now just welcome with me, Dr. Ben Carson.

Wow. What gave you the idea and then the courage to separate conjoined twins?

BC: Well it's interesting how that evolved because I got very interested in the whole concept of cranially conjoined twins a few months before I heard anything about the first set, the Bender twins from West Germany in 1987, not '77 because I'm not quite that old. Its okay, though, oldness is good; better than the alternative.

RHS: I didn't hear that last sentence. What was that?

BC: Oldness is good. It's a good thing.

RHS: Applaud him, that's one of the greatest things. Go ahead, Ben.

BC: And I don't know, somehow I just got so interested in the concept and started reading about it and discovered that one of the big problems was exsanguination, or bleeding to death and I was talking to a friend of mine, Bruce Reitz, who was the chief of cardio-thoracic surgery at that time. He was telling me about hypothermic arrest where you can cool the body temperature until the heart stops, pump all the blood out, operate, get through the critical portions, reconstruct those vessels, pump the blood back in, start the heart back up. And I said wow this would be fabulous if we ever had a set of conjoined twins, but I'm never going to see a set so why am I worried about this? Low and behold two months later here they came with the question of is there a way to save both of them?

RHS: I see God in that movement, don't you?

BC: There's no question that God inspired that curiosity..

RHS: Oh yes.

BC: ..in me to start looking for a solution before the actual..

RHS: Yes.

BC: ..operation came about.

RHS: Carry on, carry on.

BC: So interestingly enough, when they came I explained the possibility of doing this and maybe saving both of them and they were very intrigued, the family was very intrigued because the mother couldn't decide which one of the twins to allow to live and this was the only alternative that she'd been given otherwise. Choose which twin should live and we'll separate that one with the major vessels and let the other one die. And I must say that God helped to orchestrate this incredible operation that took twenty-two hours. At that time was thought to be the most complex operation known to man. I felt very, very fortunate to be the leader of that team.

RHS: The leader of the team and how many doctors were involved?

BC: Well we had seventy members of the team: doctors, nurses, technicians and I always tell young people especially, even though as the lead surgeon I got the credit, couldn't have done it without all those other people. And I always remind people no matter what success you've had, you didn't do it by yourself. There were always a lot of other people who were involved in doing that. And you need to recognize that.

RHS: I presume that conjoined twins had been looked at by doctors in the past before you came along and they never did anything. Was it considered one of those impossible situations?

BC: Yes, in many cases it was, but you know one of the interesting things though is as time has gone on and we've learned more and more techniques, I think that down the road this will be something we can do quite routinely. You know I think about Walter Dandy, the great neurosurgeon at Johns Hopkins who was the first one, this was like 70 years ago, willing to operate on the posterior forceps. People thought that was impossible to do, but he did it. First patient died, as did the second, and the third, all the way up through the 13th..

RHS: No kidding.

BC: ..but he learned from those things.

RHS: Wow.

BC: I can't imagine what he said to the 14th patient when they asked him how the others did. Probably said nobody's complaining, but you know the fact of the matter, you know he persisted and now we can do that operation routinely. And there are a lot of other things that are like that, too, and I suspect that eventually we will get to the place where we can separate twins of this nature routinely as well.

RHS: Did you pray privately before the surgery?

BC: I always pray before every single surgery that I do because God created the body. He knows the most about it and I ask Him to give me wisdom and you know so far He's been very generous with dealing out His wisdom. And I like to mention the fact that I think He has a sense of humor because my middle name is Solomon, which of course was the wisest man who ever lived. He knew that I was going to be always asking Him for wisdom, but I also start every day and end every day reading from the book of Proverbs, which was written by Solomon, and He knew that was going to happen. But also when Solomon became the King of Israel, as you may or may not remember, the first thing that made him very famous, two women came to him claiming to be the mother of the same baby and what did he do? He advocated dividing the babies. Well that's when I became

very well known dividing babies also. So God has a sense of humor, He really does.

RHS: Now I know you privately, one of the world's famous doctors whose name will be in history but you are a believer in God and how do you relate to Jesus Christ?

BC: Well you know I personally think that my relationship with God and with Jesus is the most important thing in my life. And I totally believe that that's the reason that I've had the career that I've had. You know I've had one after another once in a lifetime situations come up and be able to be resolved successfully, not because I'm such a great individual but I think because God's influence has guided everything I've done and that's why you know I called my autobiography Gifted Hands because I believe it was a gift given to me from God. I don't believe that I'm more talented than anybody else, but I believe that God has given me a special gift as He does to every single person because He loves each one of us so much and He wants us to be successful and He gives us these enormous brains so that we can analyze what our special gifts and talents are and then try to direct ourselves into those areas. And I think we will tend to excel to a much greater degree when we do that then if we just do things on our own.

RHS: You know, tell me what are you into today? What's the most exciting venture or new venture that's in your mind?

BC: Well the most important thing for me today, I love the surgery; I still do lots of surgery on kids trying to give them all a better life. You can't ask for a better thing to do than that, and also adults with trigeminal neuralgia, getting them out of pain. There's nothing better than that. But a lot of my energies and my wife's energy have been directed to education now. Through our scholarship fund, The Carson's Scholarship Fund, through speaking engagements, through the movie that was recently done by TNT on my life to inspire young people and to help them to realize that the person who has the most to do about what happens to you is you.

And you have to recognize that this is so critically important particularly to our nation at this time because you know we only produce sixty thousand engineers a year, forty percent of whom are foreigners. China produces three hundred and ninety-two thousand engineers a year. I love China, but come on we need to get on the stick here. You don't have to be a brain surgeon to figure out where that's going in the future if we don't become a little more technologically savvy. And more importantly if you go back and you look at our public education system over the years, you know, DeTocqueville, the French educator/philosopher brought a convoy over here over a hundred years ago to study the American education system because everybody was so impressed with the products that we turned out of our public schools.

And if you really want to be impressed, go back and look at a fifth or sixth grade textbook from a hundred to a hundred and fifty years ago and see what the young people in our country were expected to know. The exit exam for the sixth grade I doubt that most college graduates today could pass.

RHS: Really?

BC: Absolutely. And we need to bring that level of sophistication back again. It's okay that we teach a lot of the other things, but we need to get back to really basic stuff. People need to know how to read, they need to know basic mathematics, they need to be able to figure out the common things of life and forget about all this politically correct stuff, you know, I think that that's very destructive to our society and teach them what made us into a great nation in the first place. It wasn't going around and throwing God out of our society and saying

that we can't talk about Him. You know we were at one time a people where people would help their neighbors. Somebody's barn broke down: everybody would pitch in and help, where people cared about other peoples kids, where every other word out of somebody's mouth wasn't 'I'm going to sue you' about this that or the other. You know we need to abandon this stuff and the only way it happens is if people of faith with values and principles begin to stand up and not allow themselves to be pushed around anymore because the country belongs to us as well. We can't just give it up so easily.

RHS: Wow! And what can a ministry like this do to help your cause?

BC: Well..

RHS: Our cause.

BC: ..well as you know, your ministry has been doing this for many decades already. I just wish more people would listen and pay attention to it and not try to marginalize those people who are people of faith and try to highlight some of the people who are intellectuals in our society who are also people of faith. Because there's a tendency to try to say really very smart people don't really believe in God, don't really believe in a creator because they're smart enough to be able to understand all of these other things, but if they're so smart, then why is it that they can't explain to me how a big bang caused everything to be perfectly ordered and they say well you know the reason is because if you bang it long enough, you know, eventually you're going to come up with a perfectly organized thing. And I say so what you're telling me is if I blew a hurricane through a junkyard enough times, eventually a fully formed 747 is going to come out ready to fly which is considerably less complex than our universe, you know?

RHS: Ben, God knows you a lot better than you do.

BC: Absolutely.

RHS: And there are blessings that you don't have that you don't even know that you don't have them.

BC: No question about it.

RHS: And so I pray that God will bless you before you even know you need it.

BC: And I pray that He will continue to bless your ministry and all the influence that it has not only in this country but around the world as we begin to spend more time thinking about values and principles that made us into a great people and stop thinking about all the negatives because there are a lot more positives than there are negatives.

RHS: Thank you.

SOLO – DANIEL MCGREW – “This Much”

The sun was bright on a field of green. The birds were singing gay. A lady sat at her spinning wheel as she watched her child at play. A gentle, handsome child was He, the boy who'd just turned three, whose greatest joy and thrill right now was climbing the highest tree.

How much do you love me? His mother asked, of this Child out playing so free. This much! He cried with His arms outstretched, as He ran swiftly to her knee. The years have gone and the Child has grown, He is strong and handsome still. But that tree He loved to climb so much, He just carried to Calvary's hill.

His mother stands and I see her tears falling silently one by one. I'm sure she feels each hammered blow as they crucify her Son. How much do You love me? the world has asked, of this Man now crucified. I love you this much, I heard Him

say, then He bowed His head and died. This much I love you, oh, this much I really care. This much I love you, and I'll always be right here.

RHS "Thank you so much"

RHS: Thank you so much.

INTRODUCTION TO GUEST PASTOR - RHS

RHS: My guest pastor today who will be doing the sermon is a friend of mine of many, many years. He's traveled the world sharing his message of Christ to millions. Nick Vujcic is speaking this morning on "Faith: Full Assurance in the Heart." Welcome, Nick.

(VIDEO ROLL IN)

NICK: All my life, I've love adventure. All my life, I've desired to live fully. All my life, I've purposed to dream big, to try those things that seem impossible. And when people try to tell me that I can't, my only response is why not? Just because I was born with no arms or no legs doesn't mean I can't accomplish great things. I love life and everything it has to offer. I want to live it with energy and enthusiasm. It can be described with one simple word: Verve. There are many words that people have used to describe me. Enthusiastic, animated, full of life, I'm in vigorous pursuit of God, my passions, my dreams, the place where I live and exist, the convergence of hope and possibility, the security of knowing that my future is not held hostage by my circumstance. The act of living out God's purpose and plan and seeing how it impacts others in such a dramatic and life changing way, there is no better life for me, or for anyone else who will live their life for Jesus Christ. Yes, verve is the right word. It is most descriptive and verbally animated: God's life in me and through me.

(END OF VIDEO ROLL IN)

MESSAGE/PRAYER – NICK VUJICIC - "Faith: Full Assurance in the Heart"

NV: Good morning. Isn't it wonderful to be alive? You know under some circumstances people would say yes and then some other circumstances you sometimes don't feel like smiling. Sometimes you don't have this level of faith that you wish you could have or wish you did have. And today is all about faith. F-A-I-T-H. I'm going to teach you an acronym that one of my friends showed me a little earlier. F-A-I-T-H stands for Full Assurance in the Heart. When you have full assurance in the heart of knowing the truth of who we are in Christ and the power of His resurrection living in us through His holy spirit, this is what I want to talk about.

I don't know how many of you know about me. We have a ministry called Life without Limbs and I'm an ordained evangelist and now associated with Crystal Cathedral. It is an honor to be a child of God. It is an honor to be a servant of the most high King and I'm so joyful to report that last year Life Without Limbs ministry went across fourteen countries. We actually in a span from October 1 to December 16 over ten weeks we reached out to half a million people. Ten countries, ten weeks, one hundred and ten engagements and I met a king, the King of Ghana. I met the president of Liberia. And it's really cool like these kings in Africa, they have a throne and everything and it's so cool. They've got a scepter and everything and they wanted to take my fingerprints, but I was short of them. But it's really cool how you know they'll want to take a photo with me and so they put me on the arm rest of the throne and my heads above him, you know, it's so funny. Or you know they put me on the president's desk where no one's

allowed to put their feet up, I can stand on. But why? Because we know that we are ambassadors of Christ. Amen?

This is the truth and in that faith my parents also had strength to raise a son with no arms and no legs. I was born this way and no one had any clue that by the age of twenty six that I'd be able to preach to three million people face to face and I'm so thankful to God that we've seen so far two hundred thousand first decisions for Christ that are being followed up by churches on the ground and it's just amazing to be here with you and I pray that this is encouraging for you today. I'm standing on a table and sometimes you know when you get a bit closer to the edge, you know, I don't know if you are going to have a heart attack or anything but I'm just going to be careful because you know I don't want you to sue me for an arm and a leg or anything like that. But here I am on the table; I don't know if this makes you scared, I will not jump off. Its okay, but I want to talk about faith and courage because the reason I have accomplished things in my life by the grace of God is because I've had courage to try. You don't know what you can achieve until you try.

But fear is the biggest disability of all that stops you from trying. Fear of uncertainty, fear of inadequacy, fear of not knowing what's around the corner, fear of not knowing if you're going to make it to the corner. We all have brokenness. But I want to give you an illustration here. If I'm here on the edge and I look down, don't you think I'd be a little bit scared to jump off? Just a little bit? I mean I don't want to break my arm or something. You know, fear: if I stay here for a long time and I stare at that ground I'm thinking okay I'm ready, I'm ready. No matter how long I stay here I will always have a fear that I have to overcome. You see I've heard many preachers say that courage is not an absence of fear but courage is when you do it afraid. That's what courage is, but how. How did my parents raise such a good-looking son? I don't know how I would be. My mother, it took her four months to come to terms with the fact that God allowed her son to be born without limbs. My parents were leaders of a church, planted a church eleven months before I was born. How can you have faith when you have fear? F-E-A-R the acronym for fear I've heard: False Evidence Appearing Real. False Evidence Appearing Real. But you get courage by your faith in Jesus Christ because it's no longer I that liveth but Christ that lives in me. It's not by my strength that I can smile. It's not by my strength that I can thank God for what I have instead of being angry at Him for what I do not have. That was not the strength of Nick Vujicic but I stand before you as a miracle of God. That you can see God living in me and I want to talk about the faith that we have. You know a lot of people when they talk about faith; well you know how can we believe in a God that allows bad things to happen? It's an absolutely fair question. We all have questions. Many don't find their answers and spend a lifetime of learning but never coming to acknowledge the truth. You see the truth is so important to acknowledge because the truth will set you free. You know whatever you're in pursuit for, that video, verve? You know it's in the context of verve describing vigor in spirit. I am in vigorous pursuit of God because I know whatever I put my heart and mind to here on earth with a job, with a career and if I put my security in one day hoping you know to accomplish this or acquire this or have a family and get married, whatever you put here on earth as your security, that's holding your world up, everything but Jesus Christ is temporary. Everything but Jesus Christ is limited. You can be married and still feel alone. You can be rich yet be more poor than orphans I've seen in Africa. What is that? What is that?

Faith: how do we get faith? Trying to believe that God has a plan for a man without arms and legs, come on are you serious? If you were at the bedside of my mum as she was giving me birth and you tell her don't worry it's all-good. Come on. Try telling that mother who had this doctor who did this surgery, amazing surgery don't you think there was a little bit of fear there? Yes. But we trusted in the one who knows, they trusted in the one who can do all things; the giver of life Himself, God; the giver of grace, love and mercy.

And the value of knowing Christ is greater than any temporary pleasure, high or possession here on earth. Money can't heal a broken heart but Jesus can. And if I tell you that you have choice to believe it or not, see I can't change your heart. I can't convince you to believe in Jesus. I'm an evangelist. I've never saved a soul in my life. I can't even save myself. It's the Holy Spirit that as you hear the word this morning that the gift of faith comes by hearing of the word and then by His grace you make a commitment to walk and trust and pray and thank and grow and learn and love and hold on to. God never fails. He will never fail you. It's a promise.

Well Nick how can I believe that? Well one of the first songs that I ever learned as a child, "Jesus loves me this I know." Why? "For the bible tells me so." Man, that's all I've got? That's all I need. By His grace I believe. You know faith, it's an amazing thing. Without my faith I wouldn't be here. At age eight I did not have faith. I did not find purpose. There is no meaning, there is no purpose in pursuing anything here on earth if everything is temporary and nothing can actually penetrate your heart like someone who understands. You can be crying on a friend's shoulder but that's all they can do. They can only hold you but they can't understand. Jesus can. The truth of knowing that tears are a language that God understands is the greatest comfort of all. And that's why I'm happy.

I was just in Brooklyn Tabernacle a couple weeks ago and one of the sisters were taking photo and she's like happiness. And I'm like that is so cool. Happiness! I'm doing it all the time. What is happiness? What is it? It's when you know God. It is. It's the greatest purpose to live for. At age eight I didn't have that purpose. At age eight I didn't have that hope and I tried to give up in a bathtub. Thank God that I'm still here. Thank God that at least one soul has seen this miracle. Not glory to me, not power to me, all to Him.

In Psalm 37, in fact you heard it before but I want to just read it again; "Trust in the Lord and do good" from verse three. "Trust in the Lord and do good. Dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord. Trust in Him and He will do this. He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him."

In the King James version it says rest. Everybody say rest. Rest is so great. Rest is so good. You know we get so busy and it's funny how we're being busy digging holes, trying to find things that are going to give us rest. And we never stop digging. If you never stop digging you'll never find rest. When you find out that the rest is not from down below but up from above. That's what He's done for me. I've seen God in my life and I delight in Him.

Who is Jesus for me? He is my king, He is my Savior, He is my Redeemer but man through His power I become more than a conqueror. Who am I conquering? The devil and his lies. Nick, you're not good enough. Nick, this is too hard for you. No by the word of God this is the sword of the spirit that can break any chain of depression, any chain of addiction, any chain of loneliness and He doesn't have to change a circumstance. That God can use this. If God doesn't give you a miracle, you are a miracle for someone else.

Can I share with you an amazing story? Last year in Orange County I was speaking at a church and in the crowd was a little boy. His name is Daniel; 19 months old. He had no arms and he had no legs except for my little foot down here, he had a little foot just like me. He was so cool. Put soul to soul, full foot to foot. You know I did a peace sign and everything; it was so cute. But we brought him up on stage and everybody stopped. You could hear a pin drop and then crying. Why? Because it was a miracle. If God let me go through this suffering, first of all, so I need Him and so God can use me to save that other soul. Can you imagine his parents went through the exact same thing my parents went through? The doctors told them your son may not walk. Your son may not go to school. If he has a wheelchair we have no idea what wheelchair he's going to need. Exactly the same thing that my parents heard when I was born: We are so sorry, we don't know what to do. We don't know of anybody else. You're alone. And that morning my parents were on a plane from Australia to come visit me in California where I now live and I saw them speak to each other. And her mother, sorry Daniel's mother came up to me and said, "Nick when I hugged you for the first time it felt like I was hugging my son twenty-four years later. You have no idea how long I've been praying that God would send me a sign to let me know that He has not forgotten me or my son. You are a miracle. You are a miracle."

God can use all things if you give Him first of all delight yourself in the Lord; who He is to you. Through the power of Christ, whatever Christ conquered I can conquer. There is no other religious leader ever in the history of man who pointed to themselves as divinity except Jesus Christ. Jesus was the only authority to forgive sin because He had no sin. Anyone who has sin does not have that authority but Jesus: He was holy. He died on the cross and whatever Jesus conquered, He conquered the grave; I'm going to conquer the grave. Jesus conquered the devil and the lies; I'm going to conquer the devil and the lies. That's where Jesus is the foundation of all that I am. You take out my eyes, take off my nose, take out my tongue, take off my ears but you'll never take away my Jesus. And whether you believe me or not by His grace I hope that you do because here we go. Here's an illustration talking about wanting to believe something but you just can't believe it. People say these days Nick you have one foot. Why? Because you only see one foot. People say well Nick I don't really believe what you believe because I believe that your own faith determines reality. I don't agree. Because you could look at me and say well Nick has one foot. What if I told you I had two feet? Would you believe me if I had two feet? Would you believe me if I had three feet? If I said that, what would you believe? Whatever you believe doesn't change the facts. Just because you can't see it doesn't mean it's not there. Again here's my little foot. I got a little foot, little junior here man. Here it is. There it is. It's one little toe and he hides up there. All right?

Faith is not about feeling, faith is not about seeing, faith is believing whether you see or not. Believing whether you feel or not. I don't feel like praising God. Well is God worthy of your praise? Yes! He is the greatest delight of my life and I can trust in Him. These are all verbs: delight, trust, commit and rest. Rest. Every human being has to come to terms with surrendering what happens to their soul after their last breath. My soul is in the hands of God. And the evidence of His spirit in me gives me peace, love and joy beyond compare.

Are you getting this? I don't want to just make you feel good. Maybe it's not the average message you've heard from me before. But this is so true. Without God I am alone. You know I don't know what you are going through today but I know who does. I know that He loves you and there is nothing that you can do or not do that would change His love for you. He has such a plan for your life and I don't

understand what you're going through, I don't know your pain but wait upon the Lord, call upon Him. Seek Him and you'll find Him. His grace is sufficient. If money holds your world up today it may crumble. But if you let Jesus hold your world up today and lift you up He will never fail you. Just in your heart right now you might be seeing me across the building or right now in your home I want you to just close your eyes and just say this prayer with me:

Lord God I need You. I can't do this on my own. I want to know You more. Help me to trust You. Help me to believe in You and help me to rest in Your arms. Father, I just ask that every single person who's heard this message this morning all around the world would be touched by Your Holy Spirit. Depression, sadness or loss, we thank You God that You are with us and You'll never leave us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

May God bless you today. I love you and thank you all.

HYMN - "O For a Faith that Will Not Shrink"

O, for a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by every foe,
that will not tremble on the brink of any earthly woe.

Lord, give me such a faith as this, and then, whate'er may come, I'll taste, e'en now, the hallowed bliss of an eternal home. Singing amen! Amen! Amen!

JUAN CARLOS ORTIZ THANK YOU TO NICK VUJICIC

ORTIZ: Thank you brother Vujicic. We love you. Thank you for being so nice to us. Thank you.

NV: Thank you, God bless you.

ORTIZ: Hallelujah.

BENEDICTION - ORTIZ

JCO: Let us open our hearts for the benediction. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face to shine upon you. Be gracious unto you and give you His peace in your going out and 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 come to stand before Jesus in that day which there is no sunset or no dawning, Amen. And please don't forget that faith is a full assurance in your heart. Go with the blessing of God. Amen.

HYMN – “This Joyful Day”

O God, Whose hand has brought us unto this joyful day, accept our glad thanksgiving, and hear us as we pray. Lord God, our Friend and Helper, our Joy and Hope and Stay, grant now a new beginning of faith day after day.

Lord, here as friends we gather while hearts in worship blend; Great God, reveal Your power as fervent prayers ascend. Here may our dreams and motives be blest by Christ above; Grant hope of life eternal and everlasting love. Alleluia!