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## HOUR OF POWER OF 22.01.2010

### PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: Today on the Hour of Power, Sheila Schuller Coleman welcomes Grammy winning singer and actor, Rebecca St. James to share her new inspirational film "Sarah's Choice." And the wonderful Sarah Reeves comes to the Hour of Power for the very first time.

SR: (SINGING) Let it be a sweet, sweet sound..

VO: Then, have you ever thought of yourself as a hero? Dr. Robert Schuller does and challenges you today to become the hero God created you to be.

RHS: Heroes have cut the word impossible out of their dictionary.

VO: If you need a lift today, you've tuned to the right program. 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: Good morning! Wonderful, wonderful morning. Thank you for coming and together we are here today to praise God and thank Him that we are alive and well and favored by Him. And now, oh Lord, look into our hearts. Can't You hear the song that's there, the song of thanksgiving? Oh God, can't You feel the power that's there, the power of praise? Oh God, thank You. You are alive. We know it. You show it and we thank You, Amen.

### HYMN - "Medley – From All Who Dwell/Shout to the North"

From all who dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise, Alleluia, Alleluia. Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land, in every tongue, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

In every land begin the song to every land the strains belong, Alleluia, Alleluia. In cheerful sound let voices raise to fill the earth with joyful praise, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

BETH: And as the earth is filled with God's praise, we can be sure that our hope is renewed and our faith restored. Men, sing with strength.

Men of faith rise up and sing of the great and glorious King. You are strong when you feel weak in your brokenness complete. Shout to the north and the south, sing to the east and the west, Jesus is Savior to all Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up women of the truth stand and sing to broken hearts. Who can know the healing power of our glorious King of Love. Shout to the north and the south, sing to the east and the west, Jesus is Savior to all Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up church with broken wings fill this place with songs again of our God who reigns on high by His grace again we'll fly. Shout to the north and the south, sing to the east and the west, Jesus is Savior to all Lord of heaven and earth. Shout to the north and the south, sing to the east and the west, Jesus is Savior to all Lord of heaven and earth. He is Lord of heaven and earth.

#### SCRIPTURE – Hebrews 11 - SSC

SSC: Hallelujah, thank You Lord. Be seated. Well we begin today our message on Heroic Faith and so Hebrews 11, I love this chapter, I like to refer to it as the hall of faith. Hear the words:

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. Without faith it is impossible to please God. For those who come to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. By faith, Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, prepared an ark for the saving of his household. By faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called and went out not knowing where he was going. By faith, Moses, choosing to suffer affliction with the people of God forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, and passed through the Red Sea as by dry land. So, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us looking upon Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. This is the word of the Lord.

#### ANTHEM - "We Walk by Faith"

We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might. For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.

Sometimes trials come our way, we don't know what to do or say but we know God will make a way if we will trust, trust and obey. We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might. For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.

We trust in God and in His Son. What God has promised will be done and as each journey is begun His Holy Spirit makes us one. We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might. For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.

We may not fully understand but we are guided by His hand and as we follow faith's command God leads us to the Promised Land. We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might. For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.

#### SSC THANK YOU TO CATHEDRAL CHOIR

SSC: Thank you choir, thank you for reminding us to walk by faith and not by sight.

#### INTERVIEW – REBECCA ST. JAMES

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SSC: SHEILA SCHULLER COLEMAN      RSJ: REBECCA ST. JAMES

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SSC: You know, heroes come in all shapes and sizes and I hear people lament today and they say “Sheila, we need a hero, we need more heroes” and I say we have heroes and we just need to celebrate them more, the heroes that we have. And today the interview guest is a hero. Her name is Rebecca St. James and many of you know of her because she’s won so many awards. She’s won Dove awards, Grammy awards, and has a best selling book, but she now has starred in a movie. The movie is the story of a woman, a young woman who has to wrestle with making the choice of a lifetime. The movie is called “Sarah’s Choice.” Take a peek.

(VIDEO CLIP)

VO: Sarah’s dreams were in her grasp.

RSJ: I can assure you sir, if you give me this opportunity, you won’t be disappointed.

MALE: This company is indeed lucky to have bright young people like you.

VO: A promising career.

FEMALE: Just think honey, in a couple of months, you’ll have a glass office like me.

VO: A great boyfriend.

MALE: It’s going to be good bye to the boiler room, hello big time.

VO: Everything seemed just perfect until..

FEMALE: What’s the accuracy of these things anyway?

VO: Her choices caught up with her.

FEMALE: Have you told the father?

FEMALE: It’s your body, and your choice. If you decide to not have it, its best he never even knows about it.

RSJ: I can’t have an abortion.

VO: Where does she turn for answers?

RSJ: We’re pregnant.

MALE: Are you sure?

RSJ: What kind of question is that, Matt, of course I’m sure!

VO: What is the true?

FEMALE: A child is going to change everything. Do you really think they’re going to give the Connex account to a pregnant woman?

VO: What are the consequences?

FEMALE: What does Matt think?

RSJ: You’re not ready for this.

FEMALE: Is anybody ever ready to have a baby?

VO: And what does God say?

RSJ: You think that God still reveals Himself to people through visions? I’ve been having these very vivid dreams that show what would happen if I don’t do it. Why am I here?

FEMALE: To see.

RSJ: To see what?

FEMALE: The direction your decisions are taking you.

VO: Rebecca St. James.

RSJ: It seems a little late in the day for God to start caring about me and my needs.

VO: Audrea Logan White.

FEMALE: I made my choice. You're going to have to make yours. Just make sure it's a decision that you can live with.

VO: Brad Stine.

MALE: Love isn't this thing that sticks to certain people. Love is living for others. You wouldn't do that for Sarah?

VO: With Charlene Tilton and Dick Van Patton.

MALE: You're at a crossroad and the Lord is here for you. Whatever it is that you're facing, you don't have to face it alone.

FEMALE: You've been given the opportunity to see things from a divine perspective.

VO: Sarah's Choice.

(END OF VIDEO ROLL IN)

SSC: Rebecca, Rebecca St. James, thank you so much for being with us this morning. You are such a blessing.

RSJ: Thank you.

SSC: So look at this super hero, you know? You don't have to have a cape or have big muscles..

RSJ: No, no cape.

SSC: ..or anything like that but you have to have a heroic faith and a strong, strong heart which you do.

RSJ: Oh, thank you.

SSC: And so tell us what drew you to this movie. Why did you decide to do it?

RSJ: Well I love telling this story because it's a real God miraculous story, I think, the journey that took me to be filming Sarah's Choice. I really sensed a call from God to focus more time on being involved in faith and family films, films that are honoring to God. And I've been involved in Christian music for about fifteen years and dabbled in a little bit of film but really felt this call to spend some more time in LA and God was opening up doors in the acting arena and so I was spending a lot of time in LA. Well through a couple friends of mine I got involved with a crisis pregnancy center and went to a few different events and saw these amazing people gathering around these girls that are in a crisis and they're feeling so much pressure, so much fear, but if they have that support so often these girls choose life. They make the right decision if they have that support. And I saw that there wasn't very many movies or very much music that was supporting this pro-life message. I saw a massive need and so I was like what can I do, God, just show me what I can do to help here.

Fast track to a couple months later I was asked to audition for Sarah's Choice and got the role and so God had already ignited my heart for this message. I knew exactly who to go to for research material. God gave me a song for the film and it was just one of those things that He was just preparing me for. And I had no idea when I was getting involved with this pregnancy center that I would be doing this movie and so it's just been an amazing journey.

SSC: I loved the movie.

RSJ: Thank you.

SSC: It made me cry at the end and it's just such a wonderful, wonderful movie. What I loved about it was so comprehensive that it shows all of the different sides of what is facing women today.

RSJ: Yes, I also liked that fact. When I read the script there was a few things that I loved. One is that it's kind of like Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" in that my character gets to see three visions of what it would be like if she chooses life. And so she gets to see her daughter at six weeks old, in one vision her daughter at six years old and they go sledding and then in the third vision her daughter is

grown with her own baby. And so you see the three generations. So you see the beauty of life and she gets to see, you know, what her decision, how important it is. And so it's a heart-warming film, you know and I've been really just excited to see God already moving through it. We already know of one 17-year-old girl who chose life because of seeing the film and it hasn't even come out yet, so that's just at screenings. Praise God, yes!

SSC: And if you just saved one life..

RSJ: Absolutely.

SSC: ..it's worth it, you know? The thing that impressed me was your acting because..

RSJ: Oh thank you.

SSC: ..every time I see you, you just radiate the joy of Jesus Christ. Your eyes sparkle and He's just such a part of you and your countenance, and yet in the movie you play this young woman who has a horrible faith crisis, she is far away from God..

RSJ: Yes she is.

SSC: ..and I thought how is Rebecca doing this? How is she playing? Do you want to speak to that, how you did that?

RSJ: Yes, it was definitely a faith experience for me, one where I was just saying God give me what I need to play this role you know because I have grown up in a very strong Christian family, being a Christian since I was eight and I'm playing a girl who doesn't have a relationship with God. And then also I've spoken about saving sex for marriage to young people for many years. And I'm playing a girl who is not saving sex for marriage and so it was one of those things where I felt like God just prompted me to bring some of the pain and the pressure and the fear that I have encountered in my life through very different circumstances to this role because that's what she's feeling. She's feeling a tremendous amount of fear, pain and pressure and so I think studying this role gave me a lot of compassion for young women that are in this situation. And I've gotten to meet a lot of them, too, just traveling, doing screenings for the film and just seeing this need for us as the body of Christ to come along side these girls and say we will stand with you, we will help you choose life, and so it's a really important message.

SSC: It is a wonderful message. But now what about women who have had an abortion, I mean that has happened. So, does the movie speak to that, as well?

RSJ: Yes it does and that's one of the things that I love so much about it. There's a scene in the film that you would have seen where there's an abortion recovery group who are writing love letters to their unborn children, naming their children and sending this letter to heaven on a helium balloon. And so there's one of the other characters in the film has had an abortion and she's struggling with a lot of guilt and a lot of shame. And so that abortion recovery group really inspires her to do the same thing. And so she experiences the forgiveness and the healing of God. And the truth is all of us have made mistakes in life in various ways. And so all of us need the love and the forgiveness of God, but it's such a theme in this movie. This theme of redemption and the power of God to forgive and that He casts us in as far as the East is from the West. So I think it's encouraging. We all need to hear that message of forgiveness.

SSC: That's right. That's right. So what's next for you, Rebecca?

RSJ: Well I would love prayer because right now I'm writing songs for a new album and so we're writing for that right now. I'm also traveling, doing quite a few screenings in Boston and Baltimore and here in the Los Angeles area, too, for the movie and also going to be doing another film in December, so yes.

SSC: And I just want to have a prayer of blessing for her..

RSJ: That would be amazing.

SSC: ..and pray for Rebecca that we lift her up because we need heroes like you and so let us pray: Lord Jesus thank You, thank You for choosing Rebecca. Thank You for choosing to use her. Thank You for opening doors that her light can shine for You. Continue, oh Lord, to bless her, protect her, to use her and guide her in Your name we pray, amen. Thank you, Rebecca.

RSJ: Thank you for having me.

SSC: God bless you.

RSJ: Thank you.

SOLO – SARAH REEVES – “Sweet, Sweet Sound”

Hear the song of my life, let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound. I raise this anthem high, let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound. Hear the song of my life, let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound. I raise this anthem high, let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound.

‘Cause I am an instrument of the living God. My life a melody to His name. More than the songs I sing, worship is everything. I live to glorify my King.

Hear the song of my life, let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound. I raise this anthem high, let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound. Through all the mire and clay You're washing me with grace. You carry me, oh Lord, through it all so I will testify even in the fire. I live to praise my Savior.

Hear the song of my life, let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound. I raise this anthem high let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord, praise the Lord and all creation will sing Hallelujah.

Hear the song of my life, let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound. I raise this anthem high let it be a sweet, sweet sound, let it be a sweet, sweet sound. Let it be a sweet, sweet sound. Let it be a sweet, sweet sound. Let it be a sweet, sweet sound.

RHS THANK YOU TO SARAH REEVES

RHS: Thank you. That’s Sarah Reeves. She’s a native of Alabama, a song writer as well as a singer, and she sang the title song of her new album which is “Sweet, Sweet Sound,” so give her another applause. Thank you, Sarah.

INTERVIEW – ROB MITCHELL

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RHS: ROBERT H. SCHULLER            RM: ROB MITCHELL

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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 Kid*. 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 food 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 is.. was 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.

RHS: An amazing story.

RM: Thank you.

RHS: God loves you and so do I.

RM: Thank you sir.

RHS: Thank you, thank you.

#### MESSAGE/PRAYER – ROBERT H. SCHULLER

##### "Heroic Faith"

RHS: We're talking these weeks about heroic faith. Question: what's a hero? Not necessarily a celebrity and not necessarily a star on stage. A hero is someone who inspires us to be what we should be and to become more than we are. That's a hero. I have my heroes and in preparation for these weeks of hero's faith, I've been thinking of heroes and what impresses me this morning is a hero without whom we would have no televised program.

I'm preparing for the 40th anniversary of the Hour of Power. Yes, will be 40 years ago in February that we had our first national televised church service. It was the beginning of a new thing in religion. It would be a new thing in the history of the Christian church. A church service, on television, and I said yes it would be fantastic. People are in hospitals, they can't go to church this Sunday. People are in prisons, and they can't go to church this Sunday. People have no faith, they're skeptical or they're cynical, and they're not going to church. We have to bring the church to people who can't or don't come to church. And that was the inspiration for a televised church service. It did not start with me. It started with a friend of mine named Billy Graham.

I first met Billy when I was a college student. And we invited him to come and give a message. I sang in the college quartet and we provided his special music

for the times he preached there. So we go all the way back. Well it was Billy who said to me, "You ought to televise your church service." I don't know. He said "you've got it. The church is the right church." So we proceeded slowly, cautiously on faith and found we could buy an hour of airtime at ten o'clock on Sunday mornings in Los Angeles and we signed a contract to begin in February. So we made the arrangements, planned a Sunday three weeks away when cameras would come into the church. And the Tuesday before that Sunday I was informed that they couldn't televise the service, not in the church. It was too dark; the lighting wasn't there for the cameras. Well we could make it lighter. We'd have to bring in transformers and all of that. So I said well do it. Well the next day I think it was Wednesday and they said to me "You know Dr. Schuller we can bring it in but it's going to cost ten thousand dollars." I said "Just put it on our bill." They said "No they won't put it on your bill." Before they bring a transformer in and hook it up and have all the wires and put it all in there they need cash in advance. Oh, that means ten thousand dollars. Oh. I mean I had zero. I didn't know what to do. I thought gee.

Thursday I had a marriage counseling appointment and I still hadn't had a chance to try to find people to whom I could go and ask for a \$10,000 cash gift before Sunday. The marriage counseling on Thursday morning, they would turn out to be heroes. Real heroes of faith. They came in and I said "Well what's the biggest problem with your marriage?" They looked and said "We don't have a problem." I said "I thought this was a marriage counseling thing." They said "No, no." No, they said "You know we live in Arizona, and once in awhile we come to California and we try to go to church and last November, we were in your church and you preached a sermon on tithing." I always do. They said "We both were convinced the bible is crystal clear, no debate that we should give ten percent of whatever money comes to us to God first and the balance we can use." And they said "You know Dr. Schuller, its February but it's only a couple weeks ago January that our accountant came to us and gave us the results of last years revenue and our net worth was \$100,000 so we brought a tithe in today of \$10,000" and they turned and gave me \$10,000.

Now you know how the televised program started. In prayer. In gifts. They're heroes and you know they gave me the check and I had never met them before. I was so blown away by it all. The shocking thing is they didn't give me their name or their address and the gift didn't have their name on it. Who are they? Are you here today sitting in this audience? I've never had them come back and say remember us? Never have. They're heroes! They took a chance. They risked. You always do when you are benevolent. When you are philanthropic, you are a hero. A hero of faith, I call it.

And what do these heroes have? These heroes have cut the word impossible out of their dictionary and out of their vocabulary. They're constantly challenged. You and I are challenged all the time but when we're challenged, we don't ask is it possible because almost always it's impossible when the challenge comes. God doesn't give us guidance to do things that we can easily afford. When the ideas come from God, they're humanly impossible. It's got to be that way or we won't need Him and we won't depend upon Him. And He won't be a part of it. So God's ideas are always fantastic but they're impossible.

This morning I give you and leave with you again the bible verse on which money is mentioned most specifically in the holy bible. Malachi chapter 3: "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob Me. But you ask, how are we robbing You? In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse as a nation because you are robbing Me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My

house. Test Me in this, says the Lord God Almighty, see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing there will not be room enough to store it. Test Me; I will prevent pests from devouring your crops. Then all the nations of the earth will call you blessed for you are a blessing.” Wow.

Today, is my annual message on tithing. I do it once a year, that’s because I started this church with only \$500 and had no money and needed money and was afraid to talk about money. And was very concerned because I heard so many people criticize ministries just all they want is your money. I heard that. That’s a devils message. If you don’t have it, and you have a dream and you have a calling from God Almighty, you can’t pull it off without money. You need it.

Today in this country there’s a grave concern, widespread high and deep at all levels about finances. I have my word to speak on that issue. Begin right. If you start right, you’ll end up right. I’ll never forget when I was teaching my son Robert to button his shirt and then I’d say okay now you do it and he started but he got the first button in the wrong hole. And I was going to correct him. He said no, no, no dad! I want to do it. And he kept buttoning till he got to the top and there wasn’t a button for the hole. If you start out right, you end out right. If you start out wrong, you’re not going to end right. You may or may not know it, but seek guidance, then believe in it and follow it. I’ve never had financial problems. I’ve had times when I took postage stamps to the post office to cash them in. I needed the cash. Did you ever try that? Let me tell you, they won’t cash in postage stamps in the post office. I was shocked. But they won’t give you your money back. I’ve been there. I’ve been there when I went and waited to get enough food to survive for a week, I would buy these big packages of sweet rolls. Six in a package, two a day. Last me three days. I’ve been there.

Hey! What we need is wisdom in how to manage money. Because enough is never enough if you’re not on the right path. Heroes of faith, oh I’ve met you, I know you and I owe this whole ministry and I owe this church and we owe our television ministry and the books to you! People who are my heroes! And you are making this ministry possible. I still get letters, four words, not every letter, but more than anything else, you saved my life! There is no other institution on planet earth that goes on television week after week with one purpose and that’s to pour out positive emotions to people. Ultimately, you need it. You need the hope, you need the faith, you need the joy, you need the thanksgiving, you need the encouragement, you need the bravery to move ahead. Positive emotions. They don’t give it to you at the university level; they try to train it out of you. They try to train you to become a knowledgeable person, not emotional. You can’t live without positive emotions. And here you sit in a church, the only institution on planet earth that pours out positive emotions week after week, through the bible, through the stories of the great people. Heroes of faith.

You know why the bible still is so true? This bible has come under attack the past 2000 years that you can’t believe! If you don’t like it, you don’t believe in it and you attack it, go ahead! You’ll lose. Every anti bible thinker loses. And the bible is still here. It’s still my book of faith. Why? Because it brings to the human being what no other book brings: positive faith, hope and love. Wow.

I invite you this morning to take a look at your life. Become a hero of faith. You’re my hero. I’m looking at you. You’re my hero because this ministry which reaches millions of people was the first televised church service in the world, and it’s been going on ever since. And we started without a capital base, which is not really the way to start a business if you want it to succeed. You begin by asking what’s the capital base I need. We didn’t ask that. We only had \$500. We come and now as I’m planning the 40th anniversary of this television ministry,

phenomenal history making. We come to the end of this year and we celebrate our 40th anniversary in a few months, preparing for it, we're looking at accounts payable of six million dollars and no savings. No funding source we can go to. Depending upon God. And He's depending on you. We need huge gifts, we need loads of modest gifts. But I need people who will believe in this and support us and help us, even before you know me or I know you. You'll be my hero. I need you. This ministry needs you. God can't do it without you. Heroes of faith. And you help before you know what good it's going to do. But this morning, like every Sunday morning around the world, there are people tuned in and you are suicidal, you're not going to do it. God will not let you terminate your life. He has plans for you. He needs you. Yes, become a hero of faith.

Sheila, join me here. Sheila is my firstborn child of five and she has this calling to ministry and Sheila, help us.

SSC: We need people today to say I will be a hero; I will keep the faith alive. I will take this message into 40 more years and 40 more years and 40 more years. And we cannot do it alone. We need an army of heroes to stand with us. And so we want to say to you, we want to ask you, will you stand with us today? Will you? Because we can't do it alone and if you will stand, will you stand now, and if you're standing, you're saying yes Sheila, yes Dr. Schuller, I will be a hero of the faith. I will be a hero of the faith. I will be a hero of the faith. I will be a hero of the faith.

RHS: Thank you. I'm going to cry.

SSC: Thank you. I will be a hero of the faith. We can do it. As an army of God, we can do it. We can keep the faith alive.

#### 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, whatever may come I'll taste, even now, the hallowed bliss of an eternal home. Singing amen, amen, amen!

#### BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: And 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, in your coming in, in your lying down, in your raising up, in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears until you come to stand before Jesus in that day in which there is no sunset and no dawning, amen.