

HOUR OF POWER OF 31.01.2010

GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION - RHS

RHS: Good morning! And to all of you who are listening in Hong Kong or Moscow or wherever you are, come in. Look, listen, we are one family of God and boy we always have good news, and I do today, thank you. Now turn around and shake hands with somebody behind you or on either side, shake hands and say God loves you and so do I.

This is the day that God has made! We're going to rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.

SCRIPTURE – 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 - RHS

RHS: Listen to the words of sacred scripture. I'm reading from St. Paul, as recorded in the second book of Corinthians, chapter nine verses 6-12. Paul is writing.

Remember this: remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but it is also overflowing and many expressions of thanks to God.

And this is the word of the Lord, Amen.

INTERVIEW – MARILYN CARLSON NELSON

RHS: My guest today Marilyn Carlson Nelson is something else. She's been here before and her dad and I were friends. He started with nothing and built one of the great capitol empires of the world. She is the chairman, the former CEO of Carlson, the parent company of Radisson Country Inn and Suites Regent Carlson Wagonlit travel, the popular restaurant chain TGI Friday's. Carlson employs over one hundred sixty thousand employees in more than a hundred and fifty countries. On top of that, Marilyn is listed in Forbes magazine as among the worlds' one hundred most powerful women. She's a friend of many years, is a beautiful Christian and she's been married to her husband Dr. Glen Nelson for almost fifty years. She's written a new book titled, How We Lead Matters. We have it in the bookstore. She knows how to lead and that makes the difference. So welcome with me Marilyn Carlson Nelson.

MCN: It's wonderful to be here. It's so inspiring in this space and hearing your voice and the music that makes you feel like you want to fall on your knees with thanksgiving and shout out with praise. It's wonderful.

RHS: Oh that's great. Well you have a new book.

MCN: I do, I do.

RHS: How did that come about?

MCN: Right here. Look at this, my favorite color yellow.

RHS: Yellow.

MCN: Well let me tell you how it came about. Actually I feel like an accidental author, but being here and being with you and realizing that something has pulled me into this authorship. I really didn't have time as a CEO to be writing a book, but my grandson at age twelve, Jamie, looked up at me one day and said, Mame

were you alive during segregation? Now I thought did he mean the civil war? And then I realized that he was honestly asking a question about must have been studying 1965 the civil rights movement. And I was so grateful that he was even thinking about being inclusive and drawing the circle larger, but I also worried that perhaps my children and my children's children would see me as a CEO, would hear these words about power and might never really know what I fought for and what I stood for and what I believed in.

So I decided to combine my love for scripture and my love for poetry and little stories about my life. Stories about my life as a CEO, stories about my life in for some of your friends in China and Russia there's a story about from when I traveled to Russia, there's a story about my partner in China. There's a story about my children and grandchildren so that I've shared the vulnerabilities, the joys, the humor of a lifetime that perhaps was guided without doubt by a fundamental faith.

RHS: But you went to church every Sunday?

MCN: That's a funny story. Went to church every Sunday, but that's how I learned about accountability. My father insisted that we go down town, we would have no doubt come here. We lived in the country, he wanted to go down town because he wanted us to know that God was big so we should go to a big church. And we did. And when I was thirteen in middle school we went to church and the boys were throwing spitballs, I was at Sunday school and it was total chaos. And I thought this is awful, I don't like this, I'm not learning a thing. And on the way home I was very proud of myself and my little sister was sitting next to me and my parents were in the front and they were talking about how wonderful the sermon was and I said well Sunday School was terrible and I've decided I'm not going to go anymore. I thought they'd be very proud of me. Think oh she is really growing up. But instead my dad pulled the car over, turned around, looked at me. He had kind of fat fingers, I remember he pointed his finger at me and he said, you what? And I said I'm not going to go to Sunday school anymore. They've lost control, it's chaotic, I don't learn anything. And he said you're going to quite Sunday school? I said well I was thinking of it. And he said if you don't like it fix it.

RHS: Wow!

MCN: I started to cry. Fix it? My mom started to intervene and then she started to cry and we had a scene. You know one of those family scenes. And then I got home, he asked me to go to my room, I had to make a list of all the reasons, ways that we could fix Sunday school. And my mother for her intervention had to take me to church on Tuesday to see the superintendent of the church and to explain what was wrong and how I thought we could fix it. It was my very first message about change management. Because we brought together some of the other Sunday school members and we fixed Sunday School, but what I learned from that and what I've heard echoing in my head so many times since is the power of each and every one of us to make a difference.

RHS: You know that spirit, I get around a lot, have often stayed in the management facilities for overnight hotels and suites, that kind of thing, and that spirit has really come down from you; a hundred and fifty thousand people in the world.

MCN: I'm so proud of being in business right now, because the best philanthropy in the world is a job.

RHS: Yes! Absolutely! Absolutely!

MCN: But there's another piece. It's not just a job, we must plan careers for people and we need to be more inclusive. I learned when I was first a young

women out of college and was looking for a job and the fact is that women weren't included in those days and I had to convince an employer to give me a role and he insisted that I sign my name MC Nelson because he said no one would buy stock from a woman. And I knew in that moment what it must be like for anybody whether it's based on gender or your nationality or your faith or the color of your skin to be left out and I promised myself that wherever I went in the world, whatever opportunities I had that I would draw the circle bigger. And I decided I wanted to live by a very special piece of poetry by Edwin Marcum. And it goes like this: He drew a circle and left me out; Heretic rebel, a thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win. We drew a bigger circle and drew him in.

But let me tell you the lesson I had. When my youngest grandson, my first grandson, not my youngest, my very first. I was so excited. This baby was going to come home to my house and like any grandma, I had the cradle ready and I asked my daughter, can I take him out of the crib first thing in the morning, and she said of course, and his room was facing the east, and I went up and I leaned into the cradle and I took out this little bundle of joy. And I had the most extraordinary rush of love that I'd ever felt, I thought, in my life. And I lifted him up and the sun was coming behind him and it just felt like he had a halo, he was fresh from God. And I held him close and you know that little head feels right in the crook of your neck there, and then I know, and I've never forgotten that God spoke to me at that moment and said you cannot protect this baby. No matter how powerful you are, no matter what your role, you cannot protect this baby. If you don't care for those who have no one to take them out of the cradle, if you don't care for those who have no grandmother to love them, if you don't give voice to those who have no voice; and it changed my life forever because a part of every decision I make is how can I draw that circle bigger in order to protect him because if I don't, their lives will meet somewhere in a tower in New York or on a playground, or on a battlefield. And we can't let that happen.

RHS: Then you suffered the greatest loss a mother could suffer. Can you share that in a minute with us?

MCN: In October, quite a long time ago now, but every fall it feels as if it were yesterday, I'm reminded that we had a call that every parent dreads. And that was a call to tell us that our beautiful nineteen-year-old Juliet who'd just gone off to college, had died in an automobile accident. And I think you know the story, but it's true to this day that at first, I had had such a personal God. I couldn't believe that God could let this happen. And I felt angry and then I thought well why do I even have faith? I can't have her back. And then even though I left God, God didn't leave me. And slowly but surely, as Glen and I began to try to make any kind of sense of this senseless loss, and anyone who's lost someone knows that you make a decision every day to get up, to go on or just to pull the covers up.

And then finally we decided that what we had to do, that what perhaps God wanted us to do was to value every day that we had because it was a day she didn't have. And so I've played a little game with myself and at the end of each day, I ask myself did I live this day in such a way that I could sign my name to it. If this was my last day, because I learned when we lost her that we don't know, no know knows, she didn't know how long she had, I don't know, you don't know. What we do know is that the time we have is today. And so each night, and I recommend that each of you try this little exercise, because some days you just can't sign your name to. You just don't live up to your own potential. But then other days, you say today is the day. If this day had to stand for all time, to define me and my love of my fellow man and my faith, could I sign my name to the day? So for each of you, may you have so many days that you can sign your name to.

RHS: Let's tell Marilyn thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

MESSAGE – NICK VUJICIC "Victory in God's Grace and Perfection"

NV: Thank you, thank you very much. Thank you Dr. Good morning. How are you? Wonderful. I just want to first open up with the fact that we tried to put Dr. Schuller's robe on me but my arms are just a bit too short this morning. No, on a serious note, I want to first say thank you very much for the opportunity. I'm very, very honored to be here with you this morning.

My name is Nick Vujicic and as you can see I have no arms and no legs. And we know that God is a great God. We know that God is love. But the question that I had in my life, now 24, understanding the love of God in my life, when I was a child I didn't understand His love for me. For if God loves me, then why does He let me go through pain? Why doesn't He not change our circumstance? And we all have a cross to bear; we all have something to carry. We all have a circumstance. But I want to share with you how we can have victory in Christ' grace and perfection for you and I today.

Before I get into my story, I want to open up with a couple funny things that have happened in my life. Obviously having no arms and no legs, a lot of people look at me and maybe stare at me, and especially kids. It's really funny. There was a, you know, this one little boy who saw me one day and he goes what happened! And I went up to him and I go cigarettes! And we love freaking people out. On our trip in Indonesia, my camera crew put me up in the overhead compartment of an airplane; we closed the door and waited for somebody to put the bag up there. This guy came and I go boo! You know, freaked him out. It's quite funny. But the funniest story I can tell you was one day I was in a car and from the outside of the car, you have no idea when you see me that I have no arms and no legs, and we're at the traffic lights one day and this car comes up next to us and this girl's looking at me and I'm like cool, let's have some fun here. So I look at her and I grab the seat belt in my mouth and I loosen it like this, and then in the car seat I just did this. And she was like (PAUSES). I don't think I've seen anybody so desperate for a green light in my life. It was very funny.

But I was born this way and there is no medical reason why this had happened, and I have no limbs but I have my little foot down here and I am just so thankful for the parents that I have. My parents are absolutely; it's a miracle to have the parents that I have. I just want to acknowledge that, that without my parents, I definitely wouldn't be the man I am today. And it's just amazing to see how God has prepared my heart over the years for His plans. You know on the video, you saw the verse Jeremiah 29:11, where you know that God has a plan, a hope and a future for your life. But sometimes you don't see what that is and I couldn't see it.

This morning, I want to talk about that victory and that joy that you can have in Christ and I want to open up, if you have your Bible's with you this morning, to turn with me to Philippians chapter 4, please. I want to talk about joy. Everybody say joy. You know in Philippians, it's a great book to be encouraged. To see how the writer apostle Paul goes through his tribulations, yet still thanks God and in the first, well basically the whole book its just amazing, but I want to focus on verse four at first, of chapter four in Philippians, and it says "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice." It's telling us to be encouraged to rejoice always. Now is that possible? First of all, this morning where is your joy? On a scale of one to ten, do you have a joy of three? Do you have a joy of two? Maybe your husband or your wife knows that you have a minus ten on your joy scale this morning. But what can we rejoice about? You know some people say well I just

choose to be happy! I don't want to have a joy that's only because I choose to be that. Now I don't want a fake joy, I don't want a sugar coated joy, I want something to rejoice about. Is there something in your life that you can be thankful for?

You know, its funny how we sort of ask God for circumstances to change, because you know that's the only way I'm going to have victory. That's the only way God's going to have a plan for me is if my circumstance changes. But we forget that the goodness of God is in His faithfulness. That He doesn't let anything happen without a reason. In Romans 8:28, it says "All things come together for the good for those who love Him." Even the worst part of your life, God can use for good. How do I know that? Well first of all the Bible says so, and second of all, I see it now. I see the good! You've seen the real pain in my life that I probably went through and you maybe have that in your mind, Nick must have gone through a lot of struggles. Yes. But did I see now the purpose of it? Yes. Did I see it when I was a child? No. Did my parents see the good in their son being born without arms and legs? At first, no. But just because you can't see the purpose yet, it doesn't mean its not coming. Amen? You don't go to a train station, look down the railway and say no the trains not here, I'm leaving. No, you wait for the train because the schedule says it's going to come. Well you wait for the purpose and the good because guess who says it's going to come. God! Do you think that God is reliable? Yes. He never fails. That's what the Bible says. And just because you can't understand it, it doesn't mean its not there or its not coming.

We get anxious when we go through these circumstances. In verse six and seven, it says "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guide your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." What does that mean? What does that mean to you and me today? How do you let the peace of God override your fear and your doubt and your pain and your circumstance? How do you have the peace of God in your life when you see loved ones who are hurting and you can't do a thing about it? Let me ask you, do you believe that faith is a gift from God? Yes. Why do you say yes? We know that the gift of faith is a gift from God because the Bible says so. Do you believe that trust is a gift from God? You see I haven't found the verse in the Bible where it says trust is a gift from God. No, in fact, it says black and white in the Bible that faith is a gift from God that we get by hearing of the word. And even though we are encouraged and urged to trust in God, trust itself, I believe, is a decision. You see if I have a broken car, this wheelchair of mine, right? Let's just pretend this is a BMW 7 series, right? We're going to get like spinning rims on this thing, take it to pimp my ride and get this thing bom, bom, bom, you know it would be quite funny. But imagine that you know my BMW, you know is, let's say broken on the freeway right? Now the person who's driving the broken car, you know, doesn't pull to the side of the freeway and jump on the roof and say hallelujah, praise God! First of all, he's not going to be, or she's not going to be rejoicing about it. But what do you do with a broken car? What do you do with that circumstance? You take it to somebody who can take care of it, fix it. So do you think that you need faith to take a car to a mechanic? No. You just know who the mechanic is, know what they do, and then you make that decision to trust the mechanic.

So then by hearing of the word, we know who God is and what God can do, so then we make a decision to trust in God. It's hard though to trust. But don't you see this is where the victory lies. This is when we are transformed when we invite God into our life that we become more than conquerors. What does that

mean? That my circumstance is not going to conquer me! In fact, I don't even need to worry about not having arms and legs, I already have victory! Why? Because I trust in God's grace. I trust in God's perfection when He says no. See I can't guarantee you this morning that God is going to change every single circumstance because He didn't change mine. But I'm here today to tell you this that if He doesn't choose to change your circumstance, don't let the enemy steal your joy. Don't let those lies tell you well then God surely doesn't have a plan for you. God definitely made a mistake. God does not have the capacity to leave you, to forget you.

How do you let that peace of God guide your heart when you say Jesus here I am today. I've tried and I've tried to do it on my own strength but I'm tired and I'm exhausted and this circumstance is bigger than me. And when you say Lord, come into my life, give me Your strength, give me Your peace, and He will come into your heart when You call upon Him and you see this; this smile is real. This victory is real and the God I serve is awesome. You know, amen.

You know being out here in the states for the last six months and just sharing how God's changed my life through our non-profit organization lifewithoutlimbs.org, check it out. It's amazing. The DVD's there, there's some new DVD's lifewithoutlimbs.org. but this is the amazing thing: that God is opening up doors for me to preach and for me to share the love and hope that we all can have in Christ. And share this, that life is a journey. With God you're not going to know everything. And life is such that sometimes you fall down and you cannot get up. Let me just explain to you, let's say that there's the Bible and I want to go to the Bible. Now, if I want to touch the Bible, the Bible's not going to come to me, I've got to go to it. Okay? How do I go to it? It's not like I'm going to start levitating and going hum, right and start woo, right? That's not going to happen. But you take one step at a time, one step at a time, one step at a time. But there are circumstances that push you, that cause you to fall and stumble.

Now to illustrate my point, what I'm going to do is I'm going to jump off the table, do a back twist and land on the floor, okay? Is that cool? I'll try not to break my arm, all right, here we go. Ready? One, are you ready? No? Just let me know when you're ready, all right, ready? One, two, I'm joking man. If I did that I'd seriously sprain my ankle. All right. But let's say along the way, you might fall down like this, ready? Hello. So what do you do when you fall down? You get back up. Okay? See it should be impossible for me to get back up. Go home and tie the hands and feet of your children, push them over; it's fun. See if they're going to get up! Lord, I'm in an impossible situation. I can't do this and He's like yeah, you're right, you can't. You can't. You can't do this on your own! And the greatest lie that we are believing today is that you need to do this life alone. That's a lie. God is a personal God. You can talk to Him; you can pray with Him, it's not about just coming to church on Sunday's and doing the status quo. Talk to Him, share your heart with Him, Lord here I am, please help me.

I'm here today to tell you this, that no matter who you are, no matter what you are going through, that God knows it, He's with you and He's going to pull you through. How do I know this? Cause in Corinthians in the Bible it says, what; "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in your weakness." See you know that I'm weak. You know that I was in a bad situation. But who do you give credit to for my smile, who do you give credit to for my joy? Is it Nick's motivational principles? No. It's the glory of God. It's the beauty of being in His will. It's the gift of life! More abundant. Ups and downs. But not alone. If you're down, know that God is ready for your prayer. And if He doesn't

change your circumstance, know that He is going to pull you through. He has a reason, a plan, a good plan. And He will give you strength to get back up like this.

This is not about Nick. This is not about Nick Vujicic; this is about what God can do if you invite Him into your life. This is what it's about. Are you going to finish strong? Where are you now? Do you have that peace? Do you have that joy?

I'm going to call John, thank you John. Who are you? Why are you here on earth? What do you think God owes you? Because that's the number one in my opinion, that's the number one thing that paralyzes people from taking that step closer. Because we think that God owes me something. God, You owe me an answer. You owe me a reason. Lord, You owe me, what, what does He owe you? Has He not given you the greatest thing of all? First of all, life. And He loved you so much that He sent His son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for you, that when you come to ask for forgiveness of your sins, of the bad things that you've done, that He forgives. You think that having no limbs is a disability? You know what the greatest disability of all was for my life? Guilt and fear. Guilt and fear. Guilt of all the things you've done wrong. The memories you wish you could forget. The regrets you can't get over. And you can either choose to deal with it in your own strength, or eliminate it by the power of Jesus Christ. How do I know this is true? Because the Bible says that Jesus loves me. The Bible says that God is with me. He has a plan, His grace is sufficient. That's why. He doesn't owe me anything. I owe Him my life. I have a creator, and He designed me specifically for a purpose and if God can use a man without arms or legs to be His hands and feet, let me say that again: if God can use a man without arms and legs to be His hands and feet, are you hearing me? What a God we serve. God is good. God is so good. Am I happy all the time? No. To wake up in the morning like this? No. Sometimes after a long nights sleep, you know, you sleep on your legs, you can't feel your legs after a while, I'm like whoa!

You don't have to do this alone. That's the message cause if I did this alone, I would not be here. No matter who you are, no matter how old you are, no matter what you think you're good at, no matter what you think you're not good at, no matter what you've done in your life, the bad things and how many times you've done it, I want you to know this that I love you. Teenagers, you're awesome just the way you are. All you girls, you are beautiful. You're beautiful! And you boys, you de man. Because God has a plan for you. Do you want to know more about God?

You know maybe you came here today and you feel like God's distant. Maybe you don't understand what it means about sin and Jesus on the cross and how does that apply and you don't feel anything. Well faith is not by feeling or by sight, but believing when you don't see it. Why? Not blindly, with the word. Do you want to know more about God? Do you want, maybe for the first time you say you know what God, if You're real, I want to know You. If what Nick is saying is true, I want to know what plans You have for me.

I want to do something really special. I know that there are many of you who say yes Nick; I want to know who God is. Is that you? I want to know more about who this God is. If that's you, I want you to stand right now and come to the front, and you're going to see maybe three to five people first stand up, and everybody else is going to come and while people are coming, I'm going to ask Jason to sing a couple verses from this beautiful song. So seriously right now, right now, even as I'm speaking, pick up your stuff. I want to pray with you. After Jason is done, I just want to say a quick prayer over you and with you; I want to pray with you. Why? Because if you want God to draw near to you, we draw near

to Him. You see, in doing that, when you call upon the name of the Lord, the Bible says He hears and He answers. How do we draw near to Him? In prayer and that's all I want to do. I want to pray with you that you will draw near to Him in that prayerful heart and His presence will draw near to you.

So right now, I just want to see some people move before I get Jason, there's one. There's two. Right now, come on. If you know in your heart that you want to come closer to God right now, why don't you just come? Just bring the person you're with, you know I want to be included in this prayer. Come on, just come down. Thank you Jason.

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 rising up, in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears until you come to stand before Jesus in which there will be no sunrise, no sunset, only eternal life forevermore.