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HOUR OF POWER FROM JUNE 13TH, 2010

The Time of the Singing of the Birds Has Come (Dr. Robert H. Schuller)

OPENING SENTENCE - RHS

RHS: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PROGRAM OPENING/TRUMPET FANFARE/V.O.

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: Derek Steele was an alcoholic before the age of ten but today on the Hour of Power this now highly successful business executive will tell you that with God all things are possible.

DS: Married with two kids, my beautiful wife Becky and Jackson and Olivia, they're in Texas. They couldn't make it up. I mean I have a life that is beyond my imagination and my wildest dreams to be so blessed.

VO: Also today the incredible Women of Faith Worship Team.

WOF: Here's my heart Lord, take and seal it, seal for Thy courts above.

VO: Then are you ready to break out into a new season in your life? Then Dr. Robert H. Schuller has a special message of encouragement for you today.

RHS: The winter is passed. The rain is over and gone. The time of the singing of the birds has come.

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

SSC: Amen! Amen! Wow, have I missed those doors and those fountains. And you all know, you've heard me ask for prayer and your help. And I want to say today, Gary Garcia. Where are you Gary? There's Gary. He was one of our volunteers and he brought together a team with Don Inman and William McGuire. Are they here as well? And I just want to say thank you, thank you, thank you.

RHS: So this is the day that God has made. We are rejoicing, we are glad in it. So Father, what do we say? Thank You, yeah. Again thank You. And again thank You for all the blessings You have bestowed upon us. We've experienced miracles this past week but most of us never recognized them. We thought it just happened. So we're here to make up and to express our gratitude overdue. Hallelujah, Amen.

SSC: Amen.

HYMN - "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

A Mighty Fortress is our God; our Stronghold and Protection. He is our Hope, our Friend, our Guide; the Giver of salvation. Our Lord is God alone He made the world His own. He speaks and winds obey. He rules 'til endless day. His truth abides forever.

Great and eternal is our God; the God of all creation. He made the sun to shine through cloud. He formed earth's deep foundation. Rejoice and praise His name.

His goodness will remain. With strong and guiding hand firm shall His justice stand. His promise is eternal. Alleluia! Alleluia!

SCRIPTURE – Psalm 16 - SSC

SSC: You may be seated. And today if you are feeling like giving up, there's no hope, you're going to quit, do not because you're going to hear one story after another that God is in the miracle working business and that you will be encouraged today through this message and through the interview.

Hear these words now, from Psalm 16:

Keep me safe oh God, for in You I take refuge. I said to the Lord You are my Lord. Apart from You I have no good thing. Lord, You have assigned me my portion and my cup. You've made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen from me in pleasant places. Surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the Lord who counsels me. Even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices. My body also will rest secure. You have made known to me the path of life. You will fill me with joy in Your presence with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.

This is the word of the Lord.

ANTHEM/GUEST CHOIR – VANGUARD UNIVERSITY CONCERT CHOIR - "Softly and Tenderly"

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling; calling for you and for me (softly and tenderly). Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling; calling, O sinner, come home.

Come home (come home), come home, sinner come home! You who are weary, come home. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home. Calling, O sinner, come home.

ANTHEM/GUEST CHOIR – VANGUARD UNIVERSITY CONCERT CHOIR - "Bonse Aba"

Bonse aba mu pokelela. Ba lipele maka akuba bana. Bonse aba mu pokelela. Ba lipele maka akuba bana. Bonse aba mu pokelela. Ba lipele maka akuba bana. Bonse aba mu pokelela. Ba lipele maka akuba bana, kuba bana, kuba bana, kuba bana, bakwa lesa, kuba bana, kuba bana, kuba bana, bakwa lesa, kuba bana, kuba bana, kuba bana bakwalesa, kuba bana, kuba bana, kuba bana bakwalesa.

Bonse aba mu pokelela. Ba lipele maka akuba bana. Bonse aba mu pokelela. Ba lipele maka akuba bana. Bonse aba mu pokelela. Ba lipele maka akuba bana. Bonse aba mu pokelela. Ba lipele maka akuba bana, kuba bana, kuba bana, kuba bana, bakwa lesa, kuba bana, kuba bana, kuba bana, bakwa lesa.

Muyayaya, muyayaya, muyayaya bakwalesa. Muyayaya, muyayaya, muyayaya bakwalesa, oh kubana eh.

{English translation}

All who sing have the right to be called the children of God.

SSC THANK YOU TO VANGUARD UNIVERSITY CONCERT CHOIR

SSC: Thank you Vanguard University Choir. A wonderful university, the director James Melton. You'll get to hear more from them later, but Vanguard had a miracle recently, too, did they not? God just really redeemed that school. It's a wonderful, wonderful school, so I'm just so thrilled what God's doing at Vanguard.

INTERVIEW – DEREK STEELE

SSC: SHEILA SCHULLER COLEMAN DS: DEREK STEELE

SSC: Well anybody who knows me knows that I love children and I went into teaching because I wanted to be a child advocate and I thought this is a way to really make a difference in the lives of children. And so I was absolutely gripped by this book that I read yesterday. The title is Addict at 10. And listen to just these bullets on the back cover: First drink at age 8, addicted to pot at age 10, addicted to meth and coke by 16, homeless felon at 20. Take a look at this trailer, please.

(VIDEO ROLL IN)

VO: Do you know what an addict looks like? When most kids were learning to ride their bikes, I was learning how to get drunk. At 8 it was my first taste of tequila, at 10 it was my first joint, at 13 my first hit of acid, at 14 the first time I tried coke. At 15, well what's there to remember? I don't have a single photograph for the rest of my teenage years. My memories aren't typical. I traded school dances for juvenile detention, football games for armed robbery. Instead of making friends, I spent every waking moment trying to figure out how to get high or drunk just to fill the void. Imagine losing 25 percent of your body weight in two months. Imagine taking Benadryl to stop the allergic reaction to the coke in your system. Imagine spending two days alone in a dark apartment, smoking crack, reopening the blisters on your already burned lips and hands, unable to put the pipe down. Imagine the hopelessness of knowing within a year you'd be in jail or dead.

The nightmare ended on March 17th, 1993. By the grace of God, I checked into a treatment center and committed to changing my life. Within a year I was sober and a partner in a successful construction company. In 1997 I co-founded a software company that would go on to gross over five million dollars a year. By 1999, I was married to my wife Becky and started my family. I continued to find success and by the age of 35 I had become a multi millionaire. More importantly, I stayed sober and became a loving husband and father. Addict at 10 isn't just a gritty tell all, for me it's the final step in treatment, an attempt to help others. It's a story of second chances and third chances and as many as it takes to get it right.

(END OF VIDEO ROLL IN)

SSC: Welcome with me Derek Steele. Derek..

DS: Thank you. I'm glad to be here.

SSC: Your story, the thing I loved about it and the book, you need to know, Derek Steele is his name and the book is Addict at 10. If you feel like you're going to give up, give up on yourself, give up on a dream. If you have a relative, a family member who is addicted to anything, any kind of substance, if you yourself are struggling with substance abuse, there is hope for you today and I'm so thrilled that Derek's going to share your story because you give people hope, Derek.

DS: And that's really what the book is about, it's about the fact that God has done so many wonderful things for me and I feel like it's my duty and my calling to share that there is hope. A lot of times all you see is a lot of the sad stories and negative outcomes but there's millions of people that have beat this and so I'm hoping to inspire and educate through the book.

SSC: Yes, so tell us a little bit, you know, just in a nutshell what happened to you as a child that you were exposed and involved, drawn into this abuse.

DS: Well there was a lot of alcohol abuse in my home and as a very small child I was very insecure and very lonely and so I saw the adults drinking and I thought maybe that would be a way that I could be noticed or be a part of the group. I mean I had no idea at that age that I was going to get drunk. So I was sipping on the margaritas and sneaking sips, thinking that that would include me. And so that's how it all began and then from there, just continued on and really within our family there was a lot of sickness with drugs and alcohol, so it's a family issue, it really is.

SSC: Yes that's what I got from the book and some of the things that just really stunned me were at school, you know, did the teachers not see, you know nobody seemed to come to your rescue. And the thing that also stunned me was I think you were, how old were you when your dad, you know, paid your rent in an apartment and you were literally on your own.

DS: Right.

SSC: You weren't on the streets but you were on your own.

DS: Yes I got kicked out of the house at 16 and he paid for an apartment for me to live in and told me if I stayed in school and he moved to North Carolina, I was in Dallas..

SSC: Wow.

DS: ..so I was 16 and I mean I thought it was the greatest thing ever.

SSC: Of course.

DS: Now I could really do whatever I wanted.

SSC: Yes.

DS: And it was very deadly for me and I ended up dropping out of school and getting in trouble and going to jail and so and so forth.

SSC: Describe that turning point for you, that lowest point.

DS: On March 14th, 1993, is when I had my moment of clarity, or as we say it in the church, my conviction, moment of conviction. At that point, I had been homeless for a few months, living in a car that wasn't mine, had a Hefty bag with all my worldly possessions in it, I was a felon, a drop out and I was going to be going to Texas Department of Corrections for a ten year sentence if they caught me, so I was running.

SSC: Wow.

DS: And for the first time, I just saw the truth and the reality about what I was. I had lived in denial and rationalization for a long time, and so God gave me the gift of seeing who and what I was and the fact that I was going to be dead or in jail at any moment, and so I saw that truth and it just broke my heart. I mean when I was a little kid, I didn't dream of being what I'd become.

SSC: Right.

DS: And so I had no idea what to do, and I walked out of the place that I was in and I ended up in treatment three days later and it was a state run facility because I had no money, no insurance and they took me in. And then from there I gave my life to Christ and a lot of hard work, a lot of hard work from there.

SSC: Yes and you talk a lot in the book about the 12 step program.

DS: Yes ma'am.

SSC: And working those steps. And mentors, sponsors you call them, right, in the 12 step program. What are the first three steps?

DS: The first three steps is admit it we are powerless over alcohol and that our lives have become unmanageable.

SSC: Right.

DS: Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves, God, could restore us to sanity and then made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God.

SSC: And you said that one was hard for you to do.

DS: It was because when I got sober, I was an agnostic. I didn't believe in God, I wasn't raised in the church, I didn't really know anything about it. And out of pure desperation and being so broken, I just said I'll try anything. And really didn't believe truthfully, I mean it was kind of fake it till you make it until about a year later.

SSC: And I think that's really an important point you say in the book. You were praying to God, turning your life over to God, but you didn't really believe in God, but you were still verbalizing it. You were verbalizing it. God. I'm giving you my life and eventually God began to reveal Himself to you, did He not?

DS: I went through all the motions and I'll tell a quick story. I had a year sober, my life had completely changed, I was mentoring other men, I was a completely different person, I didn't have any obsession to use, and I still didn't see it. And so I was laying in bed asking God to prove Himself to me. And I was asking Him to turn on the lights.

SSC: This is..

DS: It's kind of goofy..

SSC: This is a great story..

DS: ..but I did it.

SSC: ..I'm glad you're telling it.

DS: And so I said God please, please just turn on the lights and prove You exist and of course the lights didn't come on..

SSC: Right.

DS: ..and I said one more time and this is it. If You don't do it, I'm done with You. So I laid there, lights didn't come on and I was frustrated. I got up out of bed and I walked past the mirror and now I could look myself in the eyes and I saw it and that God voice just came up and said you're it. You're the burning bush. Look at what I've done in your life. And so for me, that really is the day that I became a Christian through and through. I may have been faking it but He wasn't it.

SSC: That's right. No, that's right. I love that story. And so your life completely.. here you were 20, a felon and homeless and addicted to multiple substances. Anybody would say you know there's no hope for a kid like you. There would have been no hope for you and yet Jesus doesn't believe in no hope. He believes in the hopeless and doing miracles in lives and He did that through you. And now you're married..

DS: Yes married with two kids. My beautiful wife Becky and Jackson and Olivia, they're in Texas, they couldn't make it up. I mean I have a life that is beyond my imagination and my wildest dreams to be so blessed. And that's what the book is about, is to share that hope and to educate people because there's a lot of misunderstanding with the family members, and with the addicts themselves about addiction and how to recover. I mean there's not a lot of good information out there in the mass media and so I hope that this really brings to light the spiritual needs and the fact that it's a spiritual sickness at the core of all of this.

SSC: Yes, yes.

DS: And that's my truth.

SSC: Well I get letters and emails and I know that there are some of you here today; you heard some of them, you talked to some of them after the last service

whose hearts are absolutely broken today. Lost. Maybe you, maybe a family member, it might be a son or grandson or granddaughter. But I want you to take a look at Derek, take a good look because God saved Derek and He can save your child. He can save you. There is nothing, nothing too hard for God. No matter how hard it is, no matter how heart breaking, there is hope. And I asked you to do it at the last service. Are you up for it again?

DS: I can do it.

SSC: Okay I want Derek to lead us through the prayer, the submission prayer. It's part of the twelve step program and we are all going to repeat it after him. And if you're watching at home, I challenge you. Do not be lost a second more. Repeat this prayer after us.

DS: And this is the third step prayer. God I offer myself to Thee..

SSC AND AUDIENCE: GOD I OFFER MYSELF TO THEE..

DS: ..to build with me and do with me as Thou will..

SSC AND AUDIENCE: TO BUILD WITH ME AND DO WITH ME AS THOU WILT..

DS: ..relieve me of the bondage of self..

SSC AND AUDIENCE: RELIEVE ME OF THE BONDAGE OF SELF..

DS: ..so that I may better do Thy will.

SSC AND AUDIENCE: SO I MAY BETTER DO THY WILL.

DS: Take away my difficulties..

SSC AND AUDIENCE: TAKE AWAY MY DIFFICULTIES..

DS: ..so that victory over them..

SSC AND AUDIENCE: ..SO THAT VICTORY OVER THEM..

DS: ..may bear witness to those..

SSC AND AUDIENCE: ..MAY BEAR WITNESS TO THOSE..

DS: ..that I may help..

SSC AND AUDIENCE: ..THAT I MAY HELP..

DS: ..of Thy power, Thy love and Thy way of life.

SSC AND AUDIENCE: OF THY POWER AND THY LOVE AND THY WAY OF LIFE.

DS: May I do Thy will always..

SSC AND AUDIENCE: MAY I DO THY WILL ALWAYS..

DS: ..Amen.

SSC AND AUDIENCE: ..AMEN.

DS: I got it right that time.

SSC: You did great. Thank you Derek and you're going to be autographing?

DS: Yes.

SSC: You're going to be autographing so come see Derek. Thank you.

DS: Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

SSC: Thank you. God bless you, oh God bless you.

DS: Thanks.

SSC INTRODUCES WOMEN OF FAITH WORSHIP TEAM

SSC: So now we have the Women of Faith Worship Team with us today. This is a special treat. And ladies, will you tell me your names? Why don't we start closest to the door?

LC: Laura Cooksey.

SSC: Laura.

JT: Jenifer Thigpen.

JG: Janice Gaines.

AA: Allison Abbott.

SSC: And how long have you guys been singing together?

JENIFER: We actually, this is our first year singing on the Imagine Tour, but Women of Faith has been traveling for fifteen years all over the country, bringing music and hope filled messages and drama to women. And we visit about thirty cities each year and we have connected with about four million women. And if you'd like to come, we'll actually be in Anaheim, September the 10th and 11th and you can go to our website which is womenoffaith.com for more details.

SSC: And what are you guys singing for us this morning?

JENIFER: We are going to be singing a new arrangement of the hymn "Come Thou Fount" and it's actually on our new 2010 Women of Faith Worship CD that is coming out next week.

SSC: Well thank you. Bless us now.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE – WOMEN OF FAITH WORSHIP TEAM

– "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Come Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace. Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I come. And I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God. He to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be. Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart Lord take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart Lord take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE – WOMEN OF FAITH WORSHIP TEAM –

"Indescribable"

From the highest of heights to the depths of the seas creation's revealing Your majesty. From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring, every creature unique in the song that it sings, all exclaiming..

Indescribable, uncontainable You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name. You are amazing God. All powerful, untamable awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim
You are amazing God.

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow. Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light yet conceals it to bring us the coolness of night. None can fathom..

Indescribable, uncontainable You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name. You are amazing God. All powerful, untamable awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim You are amazing God.

You are amazing God, oh Lord You're amazing, amazing God. Indescribable, uncontainable You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name. You are amazing God. All powerful, untamable awestruck we fall to our knees as we humbly proclaim, Lord You're amazing, You are amazing.

Indescribable, uncontainable You placed the stars in the sky and You know them by name, You are amazing, You are amazing, Lord You're amazing, You are amazing God. Incomparable, unchangeable, You see the depths of my heart and You love me the same You are amazing God. You are amazing God, You're amazing God.

RHS - "Thank you so much"

RHS: Oh thank you, thank you so much.

MESSAGE/PRAYER – DR. ROBERT H. SCHULLER

"The Time of the Singing of the Birds Has Come"

RHS: Hear these words from the bible: "The winter is passed, the rain is over and gone. The time of the singing of the birds has come and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land." The time of the singing of the birds has come. To the writer of scripture, this was springtime and I want you to know that the time of the birds of the singing has come happens all the time. So many people say to me well I've never experienced God, I don't believe in Him. And I have to tell them you believed in God. No. You've experienced Him and they say no I haven't. I said God is with you all the time.

How many thoughts go through the average brain in a daytime? God only knows. Somebody said ten thousand. I think that's a great underestimation. All the thoughts that come through your brain, your brain, yes your brain where do they come from? You have no idea nor do I. How many of those ideas God coming into your life. How you respond, that's another thing. Whether you react negatively or positively, that I don't know. But God is real and He's real in your life so much of the time that you almost want to say.. the scriptures say God is with us always, always.

Yes, ideas that come into your brain that are positive, that are guiding, directing, uplifting, think of them as birds coming into your arena of life. "The time of the singing of the birds has come." That refers to the time when uplifting thoughts, moods, emotions, insights, interpretations enter into your consciousness. You may not call it God but it is God Himself at work in you. Believe it, receive it. Wow. "Look the time of the singing of the birds has come."

Surely for most of us that was when we were young and little children probably with their dreams of what we wanted to be and what we wanted to accomplish and the success we hoped we could live out. The time of those dreams, those moods, those hopes. "Time of the singing of the birds." Hope: that's it. And it happens not only in the morning of life but in the noontime of life when you probably have lived a few years. Fifty is a very dangerous age. Dangerous because you probably had your dreams but didn't follow them. You got into other stuff. And now you're fifty and you suddenly are aware of the fact that from this point on its half way down, not up. You don't get at it now you'll never make it, it'll never happen. And that could be very good but it could also be dangerous. You need the guidance of the Almighty like never before. "The time of the singing of the birds is come."

It may be later in life when you are nearing the end and you know it and there are things that you need to make right in your life. Apologies. You said I'll never say

I'm sorry but you were wrong and you know you have to say it. When you have to recommit your life to Jesus Christ. "The time of the singing of the birds has come."

There are times when a conflict needs to be resolved and you're conscious of the fact that you have to do something. You don't want to but you have to. "The time of the singing of the birds has come. The winter has passed. The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth. The voice of the turtledove is heard in the land." Yes the time of the singing of the birds has come.

What does that mean to you today? I have no idea. Because I don't know where you're at. I don't know where you're coming from. I don't know what memories you have held on to or what doors you slam shut never intending to go down the hall again. I don't know but you will know. You're in church. God is here. He can work through your conscience. He can work through your memory system. He can work with strange moods that are moving into your life. Yes "the time of the singing of the birds has come." Wow.

I was a young boy I won't forget this. I lived in the country. We had what was called a party line. That's the telephone service. One telephone line went through the area and people could connect to it and they would have their telephone. Not a private phone at all. Every phone connected to it. Could lift the receiver and listen to whoever was talking. And if the phone rang three times, hmm.. hmm.. hmm.. that meant our telephone was ringing and we had to pick it up. We didn't hear the other telephone ringing for the other families.

And I remember the time mom picked up the phone. It rang three times and she was hurt, she was shocked. I saw tears roll down her face. She said "we have to go call on Liz. Johnny just died." Liz was a mother and the wife of the family half a mile down the country road. Johnny was her sixteen-year-old boy. And we went there. We called. I don't know what my mom said to her, but a year or two later, my mom said "Liz is bad. She's not getting over it. Her husband says that all she does is sit there and think. We don't know what she's thinking about." And then mom said, "I'll call again" and mom called again and that lifted her out of her apathy. My mother calling on her - what do you call that? I call that the time of the singing of the birds has come. Yes, now you know what I'm talking about. When you were down and out and you were depressed, you were finished you thought, you didn't want to go out. You'd be happy if you went to heaven that night. Something happened.

You're here in church. You came alive. You came out of it. Somewhere in those past hours or days or weeks the birds came. In a thought, an idea, a friendship or a simple change of mood that you can only say was God working in you. "The time of the singing of the birds has come." Wow.

Oh one of my dearest friends in life has been gone over 20 years now. Her name was Donna Stone and she's been here in this church and some of you know her. Her father was W. Clement Stone. He was one of the great people in the United States. At one time, he was the wealthiest person in America. He was a dear friend. Well he had a daughter Donna and Donna was a chip off the old block, until she got those terrible headaches and it was discovered she had a tumor in the brain. And the tumor became malignant. And her life span was shortened. The phone rang and I picked it up, it was Donna. "Dr. Schuller, this is Donna Stone." "Hi Donna." "You know, my brain is being filled with something that's going to take my life. I want to come to California. I'm a Christian, I've been baptized as a baby, but I want you to baptize me again before I die. You do that?"

I said "Sure Donna." So an appointment was set and on that given day, these doors were locked. Signs, private ministry in session. And I remember when she

came she was dressed elegantly because she could afford anything. Instead of a hat, or a wig, she had a turban. It was a beautiful scarf bound around her neck, I mean her head. She was unusually enthusiastic, smiling self, and she said “let’s do it.” Okay.

So we walked in the church, the doors were locked and she knelt at the first red step down there. I said “Donna you believe in God your heavenly Father?” “Oh yeah. Sure do.” “Believe in Jesus Christ, that He lived and died and rose again to be your Savior?” “Oh, oh yes, He’s my Savior. I don’t worry about tomorrow. I have Him.” I can still see it.

So I reached for the baptismal bowl, dipped my fingers in the water, touched her forehead; the skin was warm, tender, soft, she closed her eyes. “I baptize you, Donna Stone, in the name of the Father who created you, in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross and rose again to be your Savior, for heaven forever, Amen.” The tears rolled out of her eyes, she smiled and she laughed out loud. And we hugged. Wow.

I remember the time I had a near fatal accident, it was in Holland a head injury, a blood clot in the brain. Intensive surgery. I don’t really know much about it, but I do remember my wife coming, standing at the bedside and that drew me out of my semi-coma into an aliveness and I remember the two of us surprised. She said “Look, Bob, look at the window.” On the third floor of this hospital in Amsterdam there was suddenly one sparrow fluttering its wings up and down, staying in the same position, not flying away, just staying there, staying there, staying there. To my wife and to me it was a visit from God. “The time of the singing of the birds has come.” Wow.

Our daughter Carol was thirteen when she had her horrible accident and they amputated her leg. She came back, would spend seven months in the hospital in Orange. She nearly lost her life. At the time, there was a time when there was no pulse, no blood pressure. The motorcycle accident almost killed her instantly. The weeks and months of pain, many surgeries followed. That was a tough year for Arvella and I. The amputation of her left leg and she was our softball star.

I’ll never forget when she said to us, “they’re signing up for softball again this weekend. I’m going to sign up, dad.” And I said “Carol, you can’t sign up. You’ve only got one leg.” She said “I’ve been checking it out and the rules are that if you were an active player when the accident happened they have to keep you on the team.” Say it again? “They have to keep you on the team.” So I took her to sign up. She limped so badly. She got in the car, I put the keys in, looked at her and said, “Carol how do you expect to play ball when you can’t even run?” She snapped back at me, she said, “Dad I’ve got that all figured out. The first thing I thought of was what you taught me when you lose something never look at what you have lost. Look at what you have left. I’ve got both arms left. I’m going to build up my arms stronger than anybody else on the team. I’m going to become a home run hitter and dad when you hit home runs you don’t have to run.” That idea came into her brain not from me, but from God.

Yes, God is with you and He will be with you forevermore. Amen.

Now Lord, the time of the singing of the birds has come in the dark of the night, in the midst of a depression and going through the tunnel of discouragement. New thoughts come, new moods move into our life. We change, we think positively again. It’s the time of the coming of the birds. Thank You Lord, Amen.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE – WOMEN OF FAITH WORSHIP TEAM – “Healer”

You hold my every moment. You calm my raging seas. You walk with me through fire and heal all my disease. I trust in You, I trust in You. I believe You're

my healer. I believe You are all I need. Jesus You're all I need. I believe You're my portion. I believe You're more than enough for me (more than enough for me). Jesus, You're all I need (Jesus You're all I need).

Nothing is impossible for You. Nothing is impossible. Nothing is impossible for You; You hold my world in Your hands.

I believe You're my healer. I believe You are all I need. Jesus You're all I need. I believe You're my portion. I believe You're more than enough for me (more than enough for me). Jesus, You're all I need, Jesus, You're all I need, Jesus, You're all I need, Jesus, You're all I need. All I need, You're all I need, You're all I need, Jesus You're all I need.

HYMN - "To God be the Glory"

To God be the glory great things He has done. So loved He the world that He gave us His Son Who yielded His life an atonement for sin and opened the life gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord let the earth hear His voice. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord let the people rejoice. O come to the Father through Jesus the Son and give Him the glory, great things He has done.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord let the earth hear His voice. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord let the people rejoice. O come to the Father through Jesus the Son and give Him the glory, great things He has done. Amen!

BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: And now may the Lord bless you where you need it most. May the Lord keep you where you stand strong. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you, to put the twinkle in your eye, and a peaceful look over your face. Until you come to stand before the Lord forevermore, amen.