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## HOUR OF POWER FROM JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2010

### Committed to Hope (Tony Campolo)

#### OPENING SENTENCE - RHS

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

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

VO: Today on the Hour of Power: Jaime Jorge was born into a Christian family in communist Cuba and learned to stand up for his faith at a very young age.

JJ: After a competition that I participated in, the judges told me that I had played well enough to win first prize. They would only give that to me if I would renounce my faith in God. And so I told them no, I wasn't willing to do that. (VIOLIN MUSIC PLAYS)

VO: Then stayed tuned as professor emeritus at Eastern University and international speaker Tony Campolo returns to the Cathedral with his inspiring message, "Committed to Hope."

TC: You say you have a weakness, this is what the bible says: In your weaknesses are My strengths. I will use you not in spite of your inadequacies but through your inadequacies. There are great things I can do through you that I can't do through anybody else.

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: Good morning.

SSC: Good morning.

RHS: Welcome! This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice! And be glad in it. Sheila, we got a great hour today.

SSC: We do. Tony Campolo. Wait till you hear him. Wow, he just knocks my socks off every time. And today he is initiating our new message series called "HA! Hallelujah Anyway." And you can't have a better launching than from Tony today.

RHS: Oh God, we're in it. We're at it. This is Your time. You've connected with us. You didn't wait for us, You're ahead of us. We are Your followers. You are the leader. Hallelujah, Amen.

SSC: Amen.

#### HYMN - "Medley – God is My Strong Salvation/Everlasting God"

God is my strong salvation what then have I to fear. In darkness or temptation God's light and help are near. Though fears encamp around me firm in my faith I stand. What terror can confound me with God at my right hand?

God is my strong assurance my soul with courage waits. God's truth is my endurance when faint and desolate. With might my heart He strengthens; His love my joys increase. With hope my days He lengthens and grants to me His peace.

BETH: Your confidence this morning, is it in God? If it is, watch: your strength will rise.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord. Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord. Our God, You reign forever; Our hope, our Strong Deliverer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God, You do not faint; You won't grow weary. You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need, You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord. Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord. Our God, You reign forever; Our hope, our Strong Deliverer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God, You do not faint; You won't grow weary. You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need, You lift us up on wings like eagles. You are the everlasting God!

#### SCRIPTURE – Hebrews 11 and 12 - RHS

RHS: You may be seated. And hear the word of the Lord from Hebrews chapter 11 and 12:

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. But 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. In that verse, you have the biblical teaching on what is sin. The tap root of sin is not rebellion against God, it's deeper than that. The deepest tap root of sin is lack of faith. For if you have everything else, but no faith, it's impossible without God. So 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 he went out not knowing where he was going. By faith, Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed and she bore a child when she was past the age. Therefore we also are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses and let us lay aside every wait, let us run with endurance the race that is set before us looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

This is the word of the Lord. May God bless this holy scripture.

#### ANTHEM - "Standing on the Promises"

Standing on the promises of Christ my King thro' eternal ages let His praises ring. Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing 'cause I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior. Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail. By the living Word of God I shall prevail standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior. Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God. Oh, yes, I'm standing on the promises, I'm standing on the promises.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord. Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, yes, I'm standing on the promises of God my Savior. Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God. Standing on the promises, promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall list'ning every moment to the Spirit's call. Resting in my Savior as my all in all standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God my Savior. Standing, standing I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of God. I'm standing on the promises of God. I'm standing on the promises of God. I'm standing on the promises, standing on the promises of God.

SSC THANK YOU TO CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

SSC: That choir and orchestra just gets better and better.

INTERVIEW – JAIME E. JORGE

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SSC: SHEILA SCHULLER COLEMAN JJ: JAIME E. JORGE

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SSC: Today, we have a wonderful guest. Wait till you get to meet him and hear him play. His name is Jaime Jorge. And we are today launching our new series “HA! Hallelujah Anyway” and if there is anybody who has lived this message, Hallelujah Anyway, who has survived many, many HA! moments, it’s Jaime Jorge. Jaime was born into a Christian family in communist Cuba. He had to stand up for his faith multiple times and he has found his calling and he has a beautiful CD called “No More Broken Strings.” Jaime, come on up.

JJ: Thank you.

SSC: Good to meet you.

JJ: Thank you. It’s a pleasure to be here with you.

SSC: Tell me, you know when I read your book, I was stunned. I didn’t even think that there could be Christian churches or there could be pastors. Your dad was a pastor of a Christian church in communist Cuba. What was that like?

JJ: Well for us as children, it was not as difficult as it was for our parents and others because they shielded us. But I remember being harassed in school, the teachers would corral me and they would say ‘why are you a Christian? Where is God? We can’t see God. Why do you want to serve God, why don’t you wear your pioneer hat’ or scarf that all of the young people had to wear. And so often times, our faith was tested. When I would go out to the ball field and

I would say to my neighbor friends, 'can I play baseball or soccer with you guys,' they would say 'we don't play with Christians' and so I'd have to watch from the sidelines. So we felt a bit marginalized but at the same time, we were taught the love of Christ in our home and that certainly gave us the opportunity to stand up for Him, regardless of the situation that we find ourselves in.

SSC: Yes, it's amazing because we all take our faith for granted here, our freedom, do we not..

JJ: Absolutely.

SSC: ..in America and so to read your book, just the persecution that Christians do endure in different countries. Is it still like that in Cuba today?

JJ: No, by the grace of God, over the last few years the doors have begun to open up and missionaries have gone there and pastors and evangelists have gone to preach and the church is growing in Cuba and many people are coming to have hope because they know now that Jesus is our assurance and our salvation.

SSC: Yes, yes.

JJ: Praise the Lord.

SSC: Isn't that, yes, wonderful. As a little boy, your mom put a violin in your hand at the age of five?

JJ: Yes. She is a pianist, a violinist an accordionist, a guitarist and a composer and she's one of the finest musicians I know and so she could tell that I had a talent for music. She says that when she would sing to me and I was in her womb, that I would kick and punch and so she started taking me to violin lessons and I loved the violin for the first week, and then I hated it for the next 15 years. But she forced me to practice every day because she said God has given you a talent and it's my responsibility to make sure that you develop that talent. So I'm very thankful for my mom's example.

SSC: Good, good mama.

JJ: Yes.

SSC: Yes, that's awesome. So here you were in Cuba, did they have good violin teachers?

JJ: Yes. One of the things that communist governments emphasize is the arts and entertainment and so yes, there were good violinists, good orchestras, good opportunities to develop these talents.

SSC: And before your family came to America, you had an amazing opportunity to go to Russia.

JJ: Yes. After a competition that I participated in, the judges told me that I had played well enough to win first prize, but they would only give that to me if I would renounce my faith in God. And so I told them no, I wasn't willing to do that. That as the bible says, it is better to obey God rather than men. And so I went home and then one of these same judges came to talk to me again and said on behalf of the communist government, we want to give you a scholarship to go to Moscow. All you have to do is sign this piece of paper that says you don't believe in God anymore. He says I don't care if you believe in God or not, just sign this paper and you and your family will have a better life. But I said you already know my answer. You're wasting your time. And he got upset and he said you are right; you're wasting my time and the time of the communist government because you are never going to be a good violinist. And he stormed off and he left and I never saw him again.

SSC: And you were a very mature young man of about 25 at the time?

JJ: Nine.

SSC: Nine. Nine years old. Wow.

JJ: Praise God.

SSC: You move me, yes. When I read the story in the book, what impressed me was it wasn't like a nine year old boy who said well I got to go home and talk to mom and dad about this. You just said no, I'm not going to deny my God..

JJ: That's right.

SSC: ..and what's so exciting is at that time, you had no hope of coming to America..

JJ: Not at all.

SSC: ..and so God honored that by giving you the same opportunities even better here in the United States, so..

JJ: Yes, that's right.

SSC: ..tell us how your family got out of Cuba and came to America.

JJ: My father wrote a letter to Fidel Castro, telling him that we were Christians, that we wanted to go to a place where we could worship God freely, and as a result of that letter, somebody come to our house and said you guys are free to leave.

SSC: But didn't your dad put in that letter, didn't he say I'm a troublemaker to you; I'm causing more problems for you by being a preacher.

JJ: Yes.

SSC: So why don't you just get rid of me and send me out of here.

JJ: Yes, he said I'm harassed, I'm threatened to be put in jail for giving bible studies for preaching the gospel so you really don't want us here.

SSC: Yes.

JJ: Just let us go..

SSC: Yes.

JJ: ..to where we can worship God freely.

SSC: Yes, but it was quite a journey.

JJ: Yes indeed. They came to get us, and they said just bring the clothes you're wearing because in two to three days you will be in the United States. But it was during the 1980 boat lift and there were complications and changes in government here..

SSC: I remember, yes.

JJ: ..and we were stuck. We were stuck in an army base camp for three months with a few hundred other people in the same situation, having sponsors, families that were bringing us here, but we didn't know if we were ever going to leave. But on the 3rd of December 1980, they began to load us into buses and vans and they took us to the airport and in 45 minutes, we were in the United States of America. And on that day when we arrived wearing the clothes that we'd been wearing for the last three months, nothing else, we were given two things: freedom and opportunity.

SSC: Wow, wow. Hallelujah.

JJ: Praise the Lord.

SSC: Your family arrived in America, not speaking the language, no home over your head, no money, no way to make a living or to live and yet here you were, you were thrown into schools at what were you, ten at the time?

JJ: Ten years old.

SSC: Ten years old, and as an educator, my heart just went out to you because it's so hard for children who don't understand the language, cannot speak, cannot communicate to learn. And I was just so impressed because it was like you lived the possibility thinking that dad has been preaching all these years, you know. Dream it, you can do it. Don't let anything get in your way, as long as

you have freedom and an opportunity and a faith in God, all things are possible. And you went on to get into med school?

JJ: Yes.

SSC: And went there for two years while you're concertizing all over, even the world and cutting albums. So impressive. What is a final word you want to say to the people, Jaime?

JJ: What I want to share with everyone here and those that are watching around the world is that God's ways are not our ways. And sometimes we think that we can help God along.

SSC: That's right.

JJ: But God's ways never include compromising our principles and our faith in Him. And even though we may miss out on some earthly opportunities, I believe that what God has planned for each and every one of us is far better than we could ever imagine.

SSC: Well, he is going to play for you now, his violin, your beautiful violin, so thank you, Jaime.

JJ: Thank you.

SSC: God bless you.

JJ: You, too. Thank you so much.

SSC: His book and his CD titled "No More Broken Strings." You can get his book at a local bookstore and his CD is available here at our bookstore, so thank you so much, Jaime.

#### VIOLIN SOLO – JAIME E. JORGE – "Great is the Lord"

#### ANTHEM - "A Joyful Noise"

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

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

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

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

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

#### RHS THANK YOU TO CATHEDRAL CHOIR

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

## INTRODUCTION TO TONY CAMPOLO - RHS

RHS: Well its very special friend of many, many years is with us today. If I were to name the top ten motivational speakers that I have enjoyed in my lifetime, early on that list would be the name of Tony Campolo. He is very professionally prepared for what he does, professor emeritus at Eastern University in Pennsylvania, speaks about 350 times a year. Now that's not quite once a day but he'll do two or three a day. He's written 38 books including an upcoming release he co-authored titled "Connecting like Jesus." His wife is with him here today, I believe. Will she stand and thank you. He is my friend, he is my brother in Christ and his wife Peggy, you are a special family so welcome back Tony Campolo.

TC: Give me a hug. Give me a hug brother.

## MESSAGE/PRAYER – TONY CAMPOLO

"Committed to Hope"

TC: At Eastern University where I teach, I can count on this happening every May. Some student will come in and say well Doc I'm not coming back next semester. I try to be professional and say pray tell? Why? You can count on what he's going to say. I need time. And I'm saying to myself, he hasn't done anything for the last three months. He's going to say it with great emphasis, I need time Doc, I need time to.. you know what he's going to say, I need time to find myself. And they all look in the same place, Boulder, Colorado. Then it becomes quite intense. Doc what I'm trying to tell you is I need time to peel away each of these socially prescribed identities, these personas that society has pressured me into accepting for myself. I'm tired of being the me that my family expects me to be, that the church expects me to be, that you expect me to be, that my friends expect me to be. I've got to peel away each of these socially generated identities and come to grips with the core of my being, the essence of my self hood. Kind of makes you puke, doesn't it?

I always say Charlie, suppose after you peel away each of these socially prescribed identities, after you peel away each of these socially generated cells and take that long guru trip into the inner most recesses of your being and get there, what if you discover hi ho, nobody's home.

While trying to find yourself, maybe you have missed the point. Jesus said "whoever seeks to find himself, will lose himself. But whosoever is willing to lose himself for My sake and the sake of the kingdom, will find himself." That in fact the self is not waiting to be discovered through introspection. The self is waiting to be created through commitment. Commitments define us. Commitments give us our identity and if you have no commitments, you are, says T.S. Elliott, the hollow man, the empty man, the straw man blown to and fro by the wind. Ours, says Kenneth Keniston, the sociologist, is the generation of the uncommitted. And yet it is through commitment that we become Christians. It's not enough just to believe in Jesus, not enough to just believe in the doctrines of the faith. You must commit yourself to Christ and say here I am, take me, fill me, use me. I want to be the instrument of Your love in the world in which I live.

In the field of psychology, there's one school of thought, the behavior of school that basically says that what we are is the result of our past conditioning; that we are nothing more than what the forces of our yesterdays have molded us into being. If I believe that, I would give up tomorrow morning. I have hundreds of young men and women who work with me, coming out of Eastern, working in cities all across the United States and third world countries, working with the poor and the oppressed, working with boys and girls who armies have marched over, who have been battered and beaten and abused and if I believe that they were

molded by their past and that's what it's all about, I would give up but I'm here to give you the good news. What you have been is not as important as what you choose to become. That's the good news of the gospel. What do you choose to become? That's the big issue. For we are more molded by the future than the past. That's what makes us superior to animals. Animals are Pavlovian. They're molded by the past. But humans are able to imagine and dream about the future. And if there's anything that the Holy Spirit will give you, if you'll surrender to Christ, it's an empowering of the Holy Spirit that will make you into a dreamer and a visionary. A lot of people say I'm too old to be a dreamer or a visionary. You're not too old. Never too old. Abraham was 94 years old when he got turned on with a vision. You've got to picture it. Use your imagination. He wakes up one morning, shakes his wife Sarah. "Sarah," can't you just see it? "Sarah," poor old lady, she's 92. "What is it Abe?"

"I just had a vision." Hey guys, there's a whole new approach you haven't tried yet. Poor old lady. "What kind of vision? What kind of vision, Abe?"

"We're going to create a new humanity, a new epoch in human history. We are going to create the human race all over again!" Poor old lady. "How's this? How's this new humanity start, Abe?" "Glad you asked, Sarah." Well if you don't think God's got a sense of humor, picture this: it's said in the scripture that Bob read today, that he left the Chaldees with his wife Sarah, not knowing where he was going! Get the picture! This old guy on a walker, going down a dusty road with his 92 year old pregnant wife next to him. Is this a picture? And can't you hear them saying "where you going Abe?" "I don't know." "What are you going to do when you get there?" "I don't know."

"Then why are you leaving Abe?" "Because God has given me a vision, God has given me a vision."

And the bible says, and when the old no longer have their dreams and the young no longer have their visions, the people perish. What this country needs more than anything else, more than anything else is a rebirth of vision and a rebirth of dreams. We've got to believe in the future because we're old as a nation, as a people, we are old as individuals when our memories are more important to us than our dreams. That's what makes us old. That's what makes us old.

I was speaking at UCLA and I was speaking to sociology students and they were so cynical. And at a particular point, I said "you are 23, I am 75. I am younger than you are because people are as young as their dreams and as old as their cynicism and I'm still dreaming, I'm still dreaming."

There are those who say it's too late for me, I'm inadequate, I have shortcomings, I mean I'm a loser. Don't you ever call yourself a loser. You wouldn't be here if you were a loser. You were once a sperm. Do you remember? Not only were you once a sperm, but you were once one of five million sperm in a group. And you lined up at the starting line, and at the end of a long, long tunnel, there was one egg. And there was a race, and you won! Hey people, people, the odds were five million to one and you came through! Don't ever call yourself a loser. You make the Olympics look like nothing! Five million to one and you won! You're a winner! Stop to think about, folks. If your mother had had a headache that night, you wouldn't be here today. You are here by divine appointment. God has a plan and a will for your life and the only question that is before you today, is am I ready to say living Lord Jesus, come into my life, take my life and let it be, an instrument to live out the dreams and the visions, not that I have for myself, but the dreams and the visions that You have for me when You created me. Because God has dreams and visions for every one of you and the question is are you willing to say not my will, but Thy will be done?

Then there are those who say but I have so many shortcomings, so many inadequacies. Of course you have inadequacies. A friend of mine out in Hawaii told me this story about a young man who was in a horrible automobile accident and lost his left arm. He was so depressed and his father, trying to cheer him up, said "can I do anything? Anything I can do for you?" The boy said "yes. I would like to take judo lessons. I understand you can do judo with one arm." The father got him a sensei, a teacher to teach him judo. After learning the basics of the art of judo, the sensei concentrated on one move, just one move alone. That one move over and over and over again, day after day, week after week. After two and a half months, the sensei said "we're entering a tournament." The young kid said "you got to be kidding. I've only been taking judo for two and a half months. I only have one arm. My left arm is going and I'm going to be in a tournament?"

They go to the tournament; the boy wins the first round, the second round, the third round. He can't believe it. He keeps on winning right up until the final. He wins the final. On the way home, he's saying to his sensei, his teacher, he said "I don't understand. How's this possible? I've only been taking judo for two and a half months. I really only know one move. How could I have just beaten the champion of the state?" Sensei said "you won for two reasons. First, the one move you do know is the most effective move in all of judo. The second reason why you won is because the only defense against that move is to grab your opponents left arm." You say you have a shortcoming? You say you have a weakness? This is what the bible says. "In your weaknesses are My strengths." I will use you not in spite of your inadequacies, but through your inadequacies. There are great things I can do through you that I can't do through anybody else.

God has great plans for you and of course the ultimate excuse, I hear this all the time, I'm too sinful. When I was in grad school, I was the pastor of a small church and I asked this one man to teach a Sunday school class. He held his bible up about this high and said "I would love to teach that class of junior high boys. I would love to do it. But I'm so sinful, I'm so inadequate, so sinful" and before I could catch myself, I said "I know and if we had anybody better, do you think I'd ask you?" I didn't last in the pastorate, do you understand? I did not last.

God can use you. God has plans for you. Accept His will for your life. Say Jesus, I not only believe in You, but I believe You have plans for me and I invite You to motivate me, empower me, energize me so I can do the things that You've created me to do in this world. There are some people who say well what about if you're on your death bed. There's no future for you then. Of course there is especially when you're on your death bed. The best lies ahead of you!

I love the story of Hudson Taylor, who went to the mission field and when he returned to England, the committee that had sent him out got their dates mixed up and did not know when he was arriving. He arrived in South Hampton the same time that Teddy Roosevelt arrived and there was a band that met him and carried Teddy Roosevelt away on their shoulders, cheering and the band was playing and Hudson Taylor got off the boat and there was no one there to meet him. He waited about two hours, sat down on his suitcase and said Lord, Lord, I didn't expect a band or a crowd to carry me away on their shoulders, but Lord there could have been somebody here to welcome me home. And he said it's the only time I heard words from heaven. When I said there could have been somebody here to welcome me home, as certain as anything, I heard a voice said Hudson, you're not home yet. You're not home yet. People, all the way through life there's future, all the way through life there's hope, even on the deathbed there's hope. There's always hope and faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

I tried to get one of my students to research this to see whether it was true and I couldn't find out, but I've heard the story that when the great movie, *The Seventh Seal* by Bergman was shown in 1958 in New York, that Bobby Fischer had just won the world championship in chess and he was there in the audience as the movie played itself out. The movie is built around a medieval knight who's playing a game of chess with the prince of darkness. All the way through the film, the prince of darkness is making moves on the knight, trying to trap him. And in the last scene, the prince of darkness makes a move on the chess board, looks at the knight and says check mate. The game is over. Check mate. And the curtain comes down. Bobby Fischer is reported to have turned to his friend and said why is that knight giving up? Doesn't he see it? Doesn't he see the pieces on the board? The king, the king has one more move. He can win. The king has one more move! Now if you can't preach that Bob, you can't preach. Because I don't know what the excuse is. You say I'm too old. The king has (AUDIENCE – one more move). You say I have shortcomings and inadequacies and the good news is the king has (AUDIENCE – one more move). You say I'm filled with sin. Sin won't even stop you. Sin won't even stop you because the good news of the gospel is that Jesus will take care of your sin. Because of the cross, He will take the punishment for your sins. You're saved by grace. Do you understand that word, grace? That means that it isn't something that you earn, it's a gift that God gives you because God loves you.

My son is a missionary worker in Cincinnati. When he was working in Philadelphia, he would take young people into the mountains for weekend retreats. He's a great pied piper. He can get young people to follow him with no hesitation. And they do follow him. They do follow him. He had 250 of them up at this retreat center in the Poconos Mountains, but my son isn't an expert on details. And he only had two counselors with these 250 tough inner city kids who were tearing the place apart and he himself had not even arrived yet. He was late going up the northeast extension of the Pennsylvania turnpike. He's got a van full of young people, young men and the van is loaded with luggage. He's halfway up to the Poconos when there's a blow out. He got out of the van, he got all the boys out, he got the luggage unloaded, got the tire out, he's changing the tire, he has the thing jacked up and the van fell off the jack and crushed to the ground. And my son let loose with a religious statement that had no theological content. On the way home, this young man next to him said "hey man, this is a great weekend. I decided to become a Christian this weekend." My son was really moved. He said "what did it?" You know he wanted to know whether it was the speaker or the bible studies or the prayer groups. "Oh no, none of that." He said "on the way up here, remember when the van fell off the jack and you said those things you shouldn't have said, I figured then if he can be a Christian, anybody can be a Christian."

Sin does not disqualify you. No matter what you've done, no matter where you've been. I mean stop to think about it. Have you ever gotten a woman pregnant and then turned around and killed her husband, saw that her husband was put to death? Well David did, but God took even those horrendous sins and said if you're willing to confess your sins, I will cleanse you and make you into a new creation and I've got work for you to do in the days that lie ahead. Nothing disqualifies you, not age, not inadequacies, not sin, for greater is he that is in you than he who is in the world.

I'm asking you this: do you feel that you can't do much for the kingdom? That it's over for you? That you had your chance and you blew it? Don't be deceived. The king, the king has one more move.

RHS THANK YOU TO TONY CAMPOLO

RHS: Tony, look what you're getting from us: applause because in our hearts, we've all been touched by you, inspired by you, uplifted by you, motivated by you. You have our love, our respect, our friendship. As often as you can come back and preach, you're here. The pulpit is yours.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BENEDICTION - RHS

RHS: And now may the Lord bless you where you need it most. May God give you peace as you leave these doors and step out into the sunlight. And may your mind be so creative this week that ideas will come, messages, motivations that can only be explained that it is the Holy Spirit working through you, Amen.