HOUR of POWER

Protecting the Heart from the Fowl Birds

Hour of Power Deutschland Steinerne Furt 78 86167 Augsburg

Telefon: 08 21 / 420 96 96 Telefax: 08 21 / 420 96 97

E-Mail: info@hourofpower.de www.hourofpower.de

Baden-Württembergische Bank BLZ: 600 501 01 Konto: 28 94 829

IBAN: DE43600501010002894829

BIC: SOLADEST600

Büro Schweiz:

Hour of Power Schweiz Seestr. 11 8594 Güttingen Tel.: 071 690 07 81 info@hourofpower-schweiz.ch www.hourofpower-schweiz.ch

Spendenkonto:

PostFinance AG, 3030 Bern Konto: 61-18359-6 IBAN: CH1609000000610183596 Hour of Power - 12.06.2022

WELCOME - Bobby Schuller & Hannah Schuller

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: And welcome visitors and church family. It is so fun to be with you on the 50th year anniversary of Hour of Power.

BS: It really is such an exciting time and we're so thrilled to be together with you today, and it's so crazy to think that its 50 years. You know we had a whole group downstairs of producers and singers and pastors, and we realized that in the group that was this morning down there, none of us were alive when Hour of Power started. Now many of us in the church here have been here from the very beginning, actually Nancy downstairs, Nancy Warshaw, was saying she worked here when she was a teenager and she's still helping us in production, and there is others here who have been here for a long time. But I think it's a really special thing to know that we're alive and well and reaching more people than ever! I mean it's just an amazing thing and I think my grandparents and the others who were before us would be so thrilled to know that the baton continues to be passed and we trust and we're going to celebrate today that we have another 50/hundred years, maybe more ahead of us, believing that the generation after us will continue to carry on the good work that's been going on in this ministry, so we're just so, so excited to be here with you today. And today's going to be a celebration, so we're going to have a little more upbeat music and we're going to be sort of having a party today to celebrate the good that God has done through Hour of Power. So let's begin with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much that you have called us here into your house and we pray especially for everybody watching on television on every continent around the world except for Antarctica, and maybe the penguins. And so we pray, Father, we pray in Jesus' name that you'd continue to expand your voice, your ministry, your music, your service, your life through Hour of Power, and we thank you, God. What a gift it is. We stand on the shoulders of giants and we're so thankful, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HS: Amen. Turn around and shake the hand of the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

SCRIPTURE – Mark 4,3-8 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for the message, Mark 4:3-8: "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among the thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." Church family, may we allow God's word to soften us and to sink deep into our hearts. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER - Chad Blake

Well Bobby warned you we were having a celebration today! Oh man, what a marvelous day. Would you join me as we just come with full hearts before the Lord. Father, what a celebration. As we gather in this place and we celebrate your faithfulness over the last 50 years to this ministry, Lord we reflect on that. We reflect on your goodness; all of the times that you have pulled us through into new vision to reach the world with your message. Lord, we're so thankful. Lord, and based upon your past faithfulness, we expectantly look toward the future what the next 50 years brings. Lord, continue to guide this ministry, continue to lead us, continue to open doors so that we may proclaim the radical love of Jesus to this world. Lord, we as a church, we pray for our leaders and right now we lift up Bobby and Hannah to you. Lord, we pray abundance over them. Lord, we pray for your spirit to continue to lead them. We pray for mighty things and breakthroughs in their family. Lord, we pray for time as a family and with Cohen and Haven to rest in you, to rest together as a family. We pray that they draw close as a family, closer than they've ever been so that they have the strength to continue to lead this ministry to where you are calling us. Lord, we pray for them because we know that great leaders are under incredible attack. And so Lord, let us as a congregation, let us as a church not forget to keep them in our prayers. Lord, we pray for your church around the world, some ministries much older than 50 years, others that are just beginning today. Lord, we pray for mighty things to happen in your church, for your church to stand united as a witness for who you are to this world. We pray for open doors, we pray for opportunities to be your hands and your feet in this world, to serve this world and show them through our actions who it is that you are. Lord, and we pray for our church. We pray for all of those who call this place home, all of those who wandered through the doors this morning, and all of those who are flipping through the channels today. Lord, we pray for strength, we pray for healing, we pray for chains to be broken. We pray for your spirit to fall fresh upon us. Lord, we want to experience more and more of you in a fresh way. And Lord, we pray for open eyes. We know that you were here in this place long before we ever woke up this morning. And Lord, we want more and more of you, in Jesus' name we pray, amen.

PRESTON PARKER – INTRO TO SONG

How many of us serve a Savior that is your everything. How many of you serve the name of Jesus! Boy if you do, we ought to praise the name of Jesus. Stand up on your feet, clap your hands, we going to dance like David danced, amen? Let's celebrate!

50th ANNIVERSARY MONTAGE - VIDEO

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

CHARLTON HESTON: As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation.

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Freddie, thank you so much. You are awesome. But let's just see how good you are.

BS & HAVEN: We need to feel it anymore. Love is an open door. Love is an open door. Life is so much more with you, with you, with you, with you, love is an open door. Can I just say something crazy? Will you marry me? May I say something crazier? Yes.

VOH: Get your hopes up, lift your head up, let your faith arise. Get your hopes up, our God is for us, He brought us back to life. Get your hopes up, lift your head up, let your faith arise. Get your hopes up, our God is for us, He brought us back to life.

CHOIR: Are telling the glory of God. The heavens are telling the glory of God. The heavens are telling the story, the whole earth is filled with His glory, the heavens are telling the glory of God.

DECLARATION - Bobby Schuller

Friends, would you hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving, let's say this together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. It's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with the world. Thanks, you can sit down.

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "Protecting the Heart from the Fowl Birds"

I have to tell you it is such a remarkable and awesome honor to be leading this ministry in its 50th year on the Hour of Power. And that's what we're celebrating today. We're going to be kicking off a whole year of celebrating and looking back, and looking forward, but what an amazing experience its already been for our whole team, and I think for all of us here in the congregation, many highs and lows, but so grateful for what's to come. You know it's interesting because when I think about really the call to lead this ministry. I think I've told you guys this before, but it's not really a calling I received. It's a calling that Hannah and I received. Growing up near this ministry and having family members, I didn't really want to go into necessarily ministry, and for sure did not want to lead the Crystal Cathedral, but I remember after Hannah and I had our wedding at the Crystal Cathedral, that was when we both felt a call that maybe we should be a part of this ministry. And at the time, we didn't think lead it, we thought let's help my dad bring young people to the church. But it was something that I feel like Hannah and I do together. So I couldn't carry on without saying that. I'm so grateful for Hannah, my wife, my best friend for all she does. And so grateful for the many pastors and leaders, there's too many to name, but we're just so grateful for so many amazing people in this organization that continue to bring just a culture of positivity and life and goodness, and for this church, so we have a good reason to celebrate. Good is coming and more good is going to happen, so we're grateful for that. It's interesting because when we started leading this ministry, one of the biggest mistakes I made was trying to make it a really cool TV show. I'd done a lot of work in TV actually before this, and I thought I'm going to find the best cameras, and I made all these changes, and we were like we're going to shoot this amazing show, and I was just so proud of it, and it looked amazing and it was awesome, except everybody hated it. And I thought oh no! The first year I'm leading I did this very expensive horrible thing. Even Hannah hated it! She did. I was a lone ranger with my little show. And although that was a very costly and expensive mistake, I realized that the simplicity of the Hour of Power is also the power of the thing itself: a live church service going right to people's homes and cell phones and computers. After doing this for awhile, I realize that there are a lot of people who don't feel comfortable going to any sort of church. People who have been abused or hurt by religious leaders, or people that have seen things or heard things about the church that are often true that are horrible. And so there's all of this anxiety for a lot of people about even going to a church. And when you go to other countries, there are people that don't even have a church they can get to within a hundred miles. Our son has some special needs and they're pretty severe and we have two nephews also with autism who are amazing, we just love them, and those experiences have also helped me realize that many families who have children or family members with special needs don't always feel comfortable in a church service. They too, get Hour of Power, and when they watch it, they realize they have a church home, and if that's you, you do have a church home. Even though you're watching on TV or watching on your phone or whatever, we consider you a part of our church and we love you. We're just so proud of you and all the hard work you're doing. As a church, we gather here as you would like a party or any other kind of gathering, but God asks us to go to people. And so the unique thing about Shepherd's Grove is not just that people gather here, but that we bring a positive, loving, compassionate; the true message of Christ to people who are hurting, to give people hope. Some people just need a little bit to get through the week, and I think we do that for so many people. And it's because of people like you that we're able to do that.

We do it together as a team, and you should be proud of 50 years of helping hurting hearts, of helping people who feel alone, of helping people know that God loves them just as they are, not as they should be, and that's a very good thing. I've always, as a person in general, felt like an outsider. I've never quite belonged in any sort of group, and maybe because of that, I've always felt drawn to the kind of outsider type people that often don't feel comfortable or welcome at church, or even more likely, don't trust religious people or trust the church, and for many good reasons. I remember when I was 16-years-old in high school, I was kind of a violent kid in many ways, and abrasive and nice but had a lot of turmoil and struggles. And I had this profound conversion experience where I became like the annoying religious kid that went around witnessing to people all the time, and that was actually good experience for me. And I remember when I had this profound like radical transformation in my life, many ways because of a miracle I decided that I was going to go to the most influential people in our school. Now I went to a school called Broken Arrow that had 2,000 kids, so there didn't have like the jocks and that kind of thing like most schools have, but I decided I'm going to go after the leaders. I'm going to go after the people that I think can make the biggest difference. You might call the kids I went after the healthy kids; the ones who were emotionally stable and they were friendly and came from good families and involved, maybe had good grades. And as I went to these different kids to try and talk to them about the Lord or about faith, they were polite but politely declined. I didn't get much of a response, and I didn't see that there was any almost felt need there. But it was the people that you would think; I went to school in the '90's so it was a little different. You have probably different groups today, but it was the people that you would think would never step foot in a church that really responded to the gospel of grace. It was the bullies. It was the people that were the pot heads and the gamers and the Goths. Are there still Goths? There are? Kelly says yes. You're not looking very gothy today. You're at church, okay, all right. All right, all right, that's a good point. Touché. It was the loaners and the drug dealers and the punks and it was the type of people that, I don't know, they had their own friends, but there was something like some hunger. That's why Jesus says a doctor doesn't come for healthy people, a doctor comes for those who are sick, right? And what I found was that those would be, they were not only some of the nicest people I ever met, but I found that the gospel was most powerful in their lives when it took grip of them. That they became the most gracious, compassionate, friendly, world-changing type people. My best friend was the drug dealer in our school! And he kept dealing drugs after he prayed the prayer with me. He kept dealing drugs and I was like you can't.. he's like how I'm going to get money? I was like hard work, bro. You got to go dig a ditch or mow a lawn or something. But over time, I watched as he changed and he had a huge heart for God and cleaned up his life. He ended up.. I haven't seen him in years, but he ended up being a chaplain in the Navy. Another girl who was a self-proclaimed Satan worshiper that came to faith, she ended up being a youth pastor at a para-church ministry. It was just amazing to see the great way that God was able to help hurting people and I watch how their lives are changed. So I think today we're talking about the power. Believe it or not, we're still on a series about birds of the Bible. You might have forgotten that. The birds we're going to talk about today are the bad ones, the fowl birds. That is a word play, but of course a fowl is like a chicken or a hen or something like that. We used to have these Canadian geese at my college. I hated those birds, oh my gosh and they would attack people and poop everywhere. But the fowl birds in the Bible and the vultures and things like this, these represent Satan and the way that the enemy comes along, not like a lion, not like a monster, but like a little chicken, and just comes along and gobbles up all the good stuff that God's trying to do in people's life. This is a reason Jesus uses chickens here. It's to show us that we serve up the devil. We serve it up to him on a silver platter by hurting people. Just take our kids, take them. Take their lives, do what you want with them. And God has sent us to turn that around.

I look right away at the famous parable of Mark chapter 4. I've preached on this before, it's a famous parable from Jesus. Jesus is in Galilee and all of these people are crowding, and He's just this amazing person that heals and has all this power and wisdom and life and He is the word of life. And so He's trying to kind of back away from these people, and He gets on a boat so that the crowds are not overpowering Him, and they're standing on a hill so it creates like a makeshift amphitheater, and He begins preaching to them. And He tells them a story about a sower. Now remember these are farmers and shepherds and stuff that He's talking to. There might have even been a guy or a gal right there just throwing seed and if you've ever seen farmers in those days do, the quickest way to do it is they dig these trenches and then they just sort of randomly throw seed. They're not like placing it in the hole, but they're just going like this. And He said this is what the kingdom of God is like, that there's the sower and he's just throwing seed and it's sort of falling at random wherever it is. And I want to work it backwards. He ends with "some fall on good soil." When it falls on good soil, it takes root and it bears fruit 30/60/100 fold, and that's the goal, right? That's what we want. But then He warns that there's three other types of soil before that. The second to the last, this one He says is thorns, that is if you have a lot of riches and comforts in your life, you also have a lot of worries. There's a temptation to allow those things to choke out the word of God in your life. Another one He says is like one that's like on a rock and the roots can't get deep, and so it's shallow and it springs up real fast because it's excited, but it has no depth and so when persecution or difficulty comes, it withers and dies. But it's the first one I really want to focus on today, and that's the road, the road. It's the one He starts with, but He says "some seed falls on the road and the fowl, they just come and they just gobble it all up." The chickens or whatever, they come and they just peck it all up. Now in Jesus' day, the Roman Empire was known for having these amazing roads that went everywhere. I think somebody said 63,000 miles of roads that the Romans built. But the road He's talking about is not that kind of road. He's talking about the kind of road you'd have on a farm. I love to hike, I enjoy going to Peter's Canyon a lot, and you can recognize, this is Peter's Canyon. It looks a lot like Israel, doesn't it? California is very similar to Israel in its landscape. But what you find when you hike a lot is that most of the trails were sort of at random. That is that most of the trails began because they were game trails. You had like deer or something running around and it make a little path, and then people started walking on it and so it got bigger. These are the kinds of roads that Jesus is talking about. In other words, the roads Christ is talking about is the soil that gets walked on. Hear me friends. The road is the soil that gets walked on. It's the soil that gets trampled underfoot. It's the soil that gets stepped on. Have you ever been walked on? Have you ever been stepped on? You ever been passed by? You ever been used? Have you ever been pulled under foot? I believe that in a rabbinic way, Jesus was showing us maybe a deeper meaning that there are some people who when they hear the word of God, it can't permeate because they've just been walked on too much. And this is what happens is our hearts become harder and very often what happens is religious people, especially parental figures or authority figures, if you're a stepped on road and the seed is not getting in, they tend to double down. Step harder! Push harder. Punish more. Discipline more. And all that does is make the road harder and wider. It's interesting there's this satire news thing, it kind of ripped off the onion and the whole point is to sort of poke fun at Christians, but there was this one I saw on Instagram from the Babylon B, and the news story says "man led to Christ after Christian in comments section declares him a total moron." There is this way that all of us, whether it's in politics or faith, that when we get angry at someone for doing something bad, or we vehemently disagree with someone philosophically, that rather than using kindness, gentleness and or a sort of forgiving method of debate, we tend to step on, to ridicule, to shame and we push people away that way. Not you, though, that's not what you do.

It's interesting because of the three types of soil that can't receive the kingdom of God, that is the ones among thorns, the ones among rocks, and the ones along the road, let me tell you that if you wanted to convert any of those to good soil, the easiest one is going to be the road. If its thorns, you got to pull all those thorns and weeds up. If its stones, you got to dig down and pull out all the rocks. But if all it is is a dirt road, man, all you need is some rain. All you need is a little bit of water. If you hike a lot, you know that those paths, you can't hike in the rain because they just turn to mush. They just turn to nice soft fertile dirt. And man, if you had a bunch of seeds would they grow there. And that is what happens when someone who has been walked on, trampled on, hurt, receives a little compassion, a little kindness, a little gentleness, sometimes those bullies, those outsiders, those lonely people, well they just turn to mush because maybe all they were looking for was a friend. And I want you to know that if you have people like that in your life, that Jesus' teaching about loving your enemy is a practical teaching. It's wisdom. Love is wise, not just moral. Well all morality is wise, but anyway. And that's the great thing. I remember the story when I was in high school, I had these friends. There were four siblings: two girls and two boys. And they had this father who was very religious, very strict. I think physically abusive, I don't know. Definitely verbally mocking them, making fun of them, criticizing them, always saying that they're heretics or this or that, and I watched all four of these kids fall into.. one of them got into drugs, another got into a gang, and two of them had eating disorders, and just all of this pain and anger and really righteous anger. But they had an aunt and an uncle who also loved the Lord, and who were principled, I mean probably you'd consider pretty conservative, but they were just so loving and sweet to these four kids, even when they were at their worst. And I watched over time as each and every one of those four kids, I believe, because of the generosity and sweetness and gentleness of this aunt and uncle, came to know and love the Lord, and learned to be even kind to themselves and nobody's perfect, but I watched at how they just overcame. And I've seen time and time again that there is an allure of gentleness, an allure of mercy and compassion that is almost a forgotten thing, and it needs to be remembered. Think about how many lives you change when you're able through friendship and compassion to turn a hard-hearted person into a soft-hearted person. Think about through history the ripples of people that are no longer hurt, and people that are touched because one person was changed. It's incredible. And that leads me back to Hour of Power. If that personality could be a TV show, that's what I hope we are: kindness, compassion, hope to everybody, not just to Christians, but to anybody that is looking for a reason to carry on. When I think about my grandma and grandpa who started the TV ministry 50 years ago, I think of people who grew up in a very strict religious environment, maybe you did to, I don't know. But they grew up in lowa in these like hard core Calvinist churches where everything was like 'you're going to go to hell if you do anything wrong,' and 'like a silken spider, God is like hanging you over the flames of hell,' and this smallest thing. It's so funny, too, because when my grandpa left, I think to go to Chicago to do seminary or to go to college, he talked about how 'we drove by all of these pagan churches.' I said 'pagan churches, what are you talking about?' And when he said pagan, he meant Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian. He really believed growing up in this little lowa town, and many of you probably grew up this way, too, that if you weren't Dutch Reformed. I mean you had to be not only Reformed but you had to like have Dutch as part of your liturgy, then you're going to hell, man. That's it! You're going to hell if you're not in this little group. And I think he discovered that the kingdom of God is much bigger than the Netherlands. Well anyway. And I think so much of his ministry was trying to redeem the most important message ever given, and that is the love of God in Christ Jesus. And it is the love of God. And not the love of God for perfect people, and not the love of God for religious people, but the love of God for broken people. The people who keep switching the same bag of luggage from one hand to the other; who keep struggling with the same addiction or depression or loneliness or failure or tragedy, or difficulty, because in a way, that's what life is, it's just difficult.

Life is hard and you shouldn't have to do life alone, and that's why a church is so important today more than ever. It's interesting because people ask me what was it like growing up at the Crystal Cathedral, and I always say I don't know. I didn't grow up at the Crystal Cathedral. I grew up at Rancho Capistrano Community Church, which was a midsized church in San Juan down in South County. It was the type of church you have like hayrides and chili cook-off's, and you sneak out and smoke cigarettes at the house at the bottom of the hill, and you go sliding down the hill on ice blocking, and beach trips with your friends. I mean that was the church I grew up with, and it wasn't until Hannah and I were married and we moved back out here from Oklahoma that we started doing stuff at the Cathedral as a college pastor, and it was there I really saw what that church or many ways this church was about. And it was there I began to develop a friendship, a real, as an adult man, not just as a kid, with my grandpa. Here's some pictures I love. This first picture is of course when I sang as a ten-year-old, and I sang "I Never, Ever Touched a Rainbow," as like a very sweet. But this was how my grandpa was, always so huggy and so sweet and affirming. You know, he always looked so cool. This is him waking up in the morning, and he still looks like a rock star with his guitar and he's all tan and probably just came back from somewhere cool like Thailand or Mexico or something. But this is really how I think of my grandpa: fishing trips and casual. And this is how he always was, so happy to see you, so full of love. And he was just kind of everybody's grandpa. Even grandparents think of him as a grandpa, just a sweet man. And I remember it was as an adult young pastor talking to him about why we do what we do. We would start meeting for about four years, maybe five, we would meet every Thursday and talk about ministry and why we're so different than so many churches. But there are three things I want to tell you today that I remember now looking back at those times. The first was this. He said, 'Bobby, in the church there are some people who plant the seed. There are some people who water the seed and care for it. There are some people who trim the plants and there are other people who harvest when the season has come.' But he looked at me with a dramatic pause, of course, and a deep grizzled voice, and he said 'but we don't do those things. We till the soil. We till the soil. We find people that have been hurt, stepped on, people who have hardened their hearts, and we loosen them up. We help them understand and be ready for the deeper message of the gospel.' This is so important that people understand this. That that is a rule, too, to turn a dirt road into good soil. That's what we do. The second thing that I really think was great about my grandpa is my grandpa was for the little guy or the little gal. Always has been, always was; we are too, but not in the way that most other people are. Most people that are for the little guy or the little gal, they want to protect the little guy or little gal, which is a good thing. They want to do things to help them. They want to provide means for them, etc. And that's all worthy and good, and Jesus taught us to do those things, but that wasn't what he meant when he was for the little guy. He wanted the little guy to know that he could become a big guy. He wanted the little gal to know what it means to be the big gal. To be a person who can achieve anything that they set their mind to. That any person, no matter how uneducated, how sick, how young, how old, whatever, that any person, if they had this thing called possibility thinking, they could do it! And possibility thinking was just fresh language for a very religious word called faith. That if you live in the kingdom of God, that really anything is possible. He believed that every problem was an opportunity and that if you believed in people, they could be believe in themselves and then they could achieve a lot. I think that's better, don't you? That's why he was so famous for saying: (RHS - Tough times never last, never last, but tough people do.) That's right. Finally the last thing that I remember from my grandpa when he was dying, and this is important. He was criticized a lot for not preaching the Bible enough. And I always felt that that was unfair, but I remember, I asked him towards the end, 'grandpa, what was your greatest regret in ministry?' And he looked at me and he wasn't joking at all, he said 'I didn't preach the Bible enough.' And the way I understood that was the people who teach the Bible, many of them don't do a good job.

They don't teach the Bible in a hopeful way. They don't teach it in fresh language. But they use the Bible in a violent way, and in a way to push people down. And I think that that's the biggest change that I think we hope to make is though we still till the soil, maybe we'll plant some seeds as well in our own way. I love the Bible so much. It's so awesome. Even if you're not a Christian at all and you love literature, the ways in which the Bible touches so many aspects of literature and non-fiction in every culture, and every way over two thousand years. It's the words of life and I think that we need to learn to preach that in a powerful way. Look, nothing will make you tougher than being a true disciple of Jesus Christ. You want to talk about tough people do, disciples are tough. People that can love their enemies; who are pressed but not crushed, and persecuted but not abandoned, struck down but not destroyed, that is a disciple. And this is the type of person you are, and the type of person we're going to make over the next 50 years. One last closing comment: as we talk about seeds, I felt like as I was praying, I felt like the Holy Spirit told me to remind people, for those of you who have children or grandchildren or friends who are in a very angry place right now, that the Lord says that there are seeds beneath the hardened road. There are seeds beneath the hardened road. That is that many of the children and young people who were in a good church, or had friends who loved them, or spoke words of wisdom and the word of God to them when they were younger, that maybe now they've become hardened or difficult, it's okay. That the seeds that are under the hardened road will come and break through the surface some day. That the word of God will not return void if it was ever on good ground. I know because I was that way. I grew up in a church and had all these things, and then I became all angry and frustrated, and then when the season was right, it broke out. It's like a dirt road can't hold down bamboo. Nothing can hold bamboo down. You guys know all that. And there's something like a rubber band that when you experience the life of God. and then you walk away, there's like this tension that forms between you and the Lord where the farther you go, the more there's a part of you that wants to come back. Anyway, well, I believe that the next 50 years of ministry are going to be incredible, and I want you to know that this is not about just me and Hannah, or the leaders here, but about all of us believing that hurting people, outsiders, people who are struggling, people who can't get to church, people who have special needs, that all these people are so, so important in the kingdom of God and that we still need to preach the power of possibility thinking. We need to preach the power of believing in the little guy and the little gal. Not just to help them when they're down, but to show them that they can big, too. Amen? And that's what it means to walk by faith. Lord, we love you and we thank you so much for all you've given us. Thank you for my grandparents, the Schuller's, and for my dad and Donna, and thank you for many pastors who have come through, and leaders who have come through, and so many people who never got credit or recognition, but were such an integral part of the amazing things that happened here. Lord, we thank you so much. You see all of them and they are all equally important in your eyes, and they are in our eyes, too, and we thank you, Lord, it's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.