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GOOD MORNING – Hannah Schuller (HS)

This is the day the Lord has made. And we will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning, church family. It is an honor to be here with you. We have an amazingly special guest that I'm excited to have.

Would you turn around and shake the hand of the person next to you, or give them a big hug and say God loves you and so do I.

Again, we are so glad to have you here. It is not an accident that you're here, not an accident that you're tuned in with us. The Lord wants to speak to us today. Bobby is on a writing retreat, so he will not be here, but we have Nick Vujicic in the house today.

Would you join me for this morning's prayer? Lord Father, we come before you and we ask you that you wouldn't just move in this place, that you would move us, God. Move us, Lord God. Stir our hearts and our minds and our soul and our spirit. We love you, Jesus, and we give you this time. We open up to you, Father. We ask that you would make us people of prayer, Lord. That we'd live our lives in prayer, Father. We worship you, and we praise you for this day, in your holy and powerful name we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE – Luke 14:15-24 – Hannah Schuller

In preparation for Nick's message, the words of our Lord found in Luke 14:15:

When one of those at the table with Him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Jesus replied: A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all like began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five yokes of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.' The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled and the blind and the lame.' 'Sir, the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.' Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.' Amen.

PREP FOR OFFERING – Chad Blake

I love the line in that last song that says I heard a voice from heaven saying there's work to do and that God has called each and every one of us to a ministry, each and every one of us to do something for Him, to be part of His rescue mission to this world. And as we give back to God, we respond to the things that God is doing in our lives. We respond to the power of God that is available for us to access today.

And as we respond, we also are able to engage in what God is doing around the world, that we serve a God that is bigger than you and me. We serve a God that is bigger than Shepherd's Grove. We serve a God that is bigger than the United States. We serve a God that is active and alive in this world, amen? We serve a God who is doing things and we get to participate in that. So as we prepare to receive this morning's tithes and offerings, we do so in a spirit of remembering the great work that God is doing all around this world. I'd like to invite the ushers forward this morning as we prepare to receive this morning's tithes and offerings.

Be the Hands and Feet (Nick Vujicic)

INTERVIEW – with Nick Vujicic (NC) – Hannah Schuller (BS)

HS: With us today is a man who truly needs no introduction. Please welcome our guest speaker, Nick Vujicic.

NV: Thank God, hi Hannah! God bless you and Bobby.

HS: Thank you.

NV: Hello church! Thank you very much. God bless you all. Thank you for having me back.

HS: Yes, you are very loved here. In the last 15 years, you've been sharing the gospel in 68 nations with more than eight million people from Presidents and Prime Ministers, to prisoners and victims of human trafficking, and now you've been hosting eight thousand person tent outreaches here in Southern California. Tell us about that.

NV: Well first of all, all glory to God, amen? We are so, so thankful to really remind everyone, whoever supports a ministry for the kingdom of God, there's going to be people in heaven saying thank you for being faithful to the Lord, by His grace. Everyone say by His grace.

So it is by His grace that Life Without Limbs has gone through all 68 countries and we have seen over a million souls say yes to Jesus Christ in the last 12 years, actually, of travel. And so we are just so, so blessed.

And the tent, I was speaking in Pasadena about I think eight years ago, Pasadena Lake Avenue Church, and there were two thousand people in the church, and someone whispered in my ear they just turned away another five hundred people. And I'm like oh, man, like that sucks! Because like everyone did their job and God's house is full. Everyone say full. Right? And we know that we want a lot of God's things to be overflowing, but man, you don't want to shut the door on anyone to hear the good news.

And so I'm like God, we need a bigger venue, and so I looked up Staples Center. Costs an arm and a leg and I didn't have that. And so all of a sudden while I was there on stage, I actually saw a big white tent vision. And I saw it pitched up around the concrete buildings of Pasadena. I didn't tell anybody anything for three years. Nothing. And really it's a cool story, I share it more in the book, but basically I shared about it once on stage in Santa Barbara, and I talked about the vision of the tent, and God told her hey we want to pay the whole thing for the whole tent. And I'm like wow..

HS: They're very expensive, too.

NV: ..big, big, big tent. Sixty-four thousand square feet, eight thousand seats, twenty-five thousand pounds in one trailer, and by the grace of God we pitched up only one-sixth of it in Ventura County. We saw five thousand people come through. We worked with fourteen local churches.

But the coolest thing about this was out of the three hundred and sixty nine people who gave their life to Jesus in the tent, a third of them came back to the tent for discipleship courses. The normal average is two to three percent of retention and our goal is to then bridge them to the local church to find counseling, healing, transformation and get baptized.

So God willing, over the next eighteen months, it'll be pitched up in the fullness three times, ten nights each in Ventura County and maybe up in Santa Barbara. We're not sure yet, but imagine. Everyone say imagine. So over ten nights hopefully then eighty thousand people come through the tent, eight thousand give their life to Jesus, which is the retention of ten percent normally for our events, by the grace of God. Can you imagine when we can let you know that we then will do a baptism service in the ocean for all the new believers. So we're hoping for a thousand baptisms each time that tent's pitched up. So praise God for that. God is ready to move in America, amen.

HS: Yes, amen. I love that you're a dreamer and you make these dreams happen.

NV: Oh it's all God, and it's an amazing team, amazing board of directors, and its only for Him, through Him, and by His grace, and so it's got nothing to do with us. Not by power, not by might, but by my spirit.

But really how will they know the gospel until someone tells them, right? And how will someone tell them until someone sends them, so we want you to know that as a church, the gospel has been preached through your church to millions of souls, and each and every one of you who support such a ministry will meet all those souls in heaven. What a glorious day that'll be. Amen?

HS: Amen. So I have a question. We've done a lot of traveling, Bobby and I, and we see even though countries have different cultures and people can have different habits or behaviors, we've seen, at least I've seen a re-occurring theme in the needs of the people. Like when you've gone to these nations, and gone to all these different cultures, what would you say the greatest need is for the people that you encounter?

Be the Hands and Feet (Nick Vujicic)

NV: Real hope. It looks different for each and every one of us in this room, and how that looks is also then very diverse also broad worldwide. And so the needs of somebody who's been sexually abused is different than the one whose father just died, and how you counsel them and what promises you share with them. For a child who's a foster kid, it's all very different.

Yet, together as the same body of Christ having different parts of the body of Christ, the hands and feet, amen. So we are the tools and instruments in God's hand to reach out. Jesus is in heaven, God the Father is in heaven, and the Holy Spirit is in us and on the earth, and yes, the Holy Spirit does reveal Himself to people for sure, but really, God delights also and on the front line of taking over territory for His kingdom, He wants to use His children who I think most of us feel like, well how can God use me? I don't have gifts, I'm not a speaker, how could God ever use me. And that's the whole message of the book, Be the Hands and Feet, because if God can use a man without arms and legs to be His hands and feet, then God can use any willing heart, and He doesn't have to give you more before you can do something for Him.

It's not just about a country that prays for revival, that asks God to move, it's about the kingdom of God and all the angels waiting for us to move in the most simplest ways, in the ways that first of all we have a personal relationship, and when we taste and see that the Lord is good, when you experience something good, did you see that? Did you hear about that?

When was the last time as believers we went to someone and say, have you heard about the kingdom of God? Can I pray for you? And its these things that the average American person who goes to church, if I say can you tell me in three minutes, who were you before you met Christ? And what happened when you met Christ? And people are like, well I don't know how to talk. But how do we do that? How do we talk to people who have been hurt by the church? And this book helps people to understand that God is ready to move. And I see some of you teenagers with no hair, and some of you teenagers with grey hair. I see you from here. You're still here at 80 years old, all right? There is a reason why you're here. My dad went home at 62 years old. Why? Because his battlefield mission was done. He fought the good faith to fight, and he finished with unbelievable faith in God. And so that is finishing the race. We are not here just to receive, and have an incredible relationship with God, but it's also about saying well who else did you tell about me and my love? And it's us understanding that yes, the church of America can grow, but how quickly the church grows doesn't depend on how well you preach or Bobby preaches in a church. How quickly the church grows is how many lost souls come through those doors. And if we don't invite them in, then there's no fish. If there's no fishermen, there's no fish.

And so the whole idea is that we all are called somehow, not just to plant seeds of love, and be nice, and forgive when we have to, but get on the front line of God's army, taking over territory for His kingdom, and standing in front of the gates of hell and redirecting traffic. And instead of just reporting about what's happening in the next generation, let's go and pray to God, God, how do we together as a church equip the saints to go and get these lost souls and make God's house full.

HS: Wow. It's like we're already getting an amazing sermon.

NV: I know.. I get excited and my hands fly everywhere.

HS: That's awesome. It's actually really.. it's so interesting for me to hear you say that its hope is the greatest need, because that is exactly.. I think I've talked to our congregation about this. I've gone to all the different directors, the director of Germany, the director of Holland, the different countries like what is the greatest need of the people in your country, and they've phrased it different ways, but they always say hope. Like our people need hope. So it's so interesting to hear you say that's exactly what you feel like when you've gone out to these different nations.

NV: I'm going to add twenty seconds to that. I think we need to come back to the basics and preach the original gospel. There are two continents on earth that have been absolutely devastated by the prosperity gospel: Africa and Latin America. It's time that we come back to the basics of understanding. God doesn't love you because you give money. God doesn't love you so then you're going to become a millionaire. We got to understand, come back as children. Abba father. I love you. Your greatest purpose is not to do things for God, it's to know that you're His and He is yours. And then say okay God, help me day by day and help me to share your love that others may know you, too. Sorry, I got long answers..

HS: Oh my gosh, no..

NV: ..you're awesome. I love you.

HS: ..great, great. I also wanted to formally congratulate you and your wife Kanae for your.. they have two brand new baby twin girls.

Be the Hands and Feet (Nick Vujicic)

NV: Yes.

HS: Who were just born, right before Christmas.

NV: Thank you, thank you.

HS: So you have two boys..

NV: Two boys.

HS: ..and now you've got these two new identical twin girls.

NV: Two girls, yes, medically speaking we're finished, we're done. Biologically, my wife is totally incredible. The most beautiful soul on planet earth. She's been deprived of sleep, and one of those sleepless nights, the next morning she's like 'babe, maybe we should get some foster babies, too.' And I got the easy end of the deal, so what am I going to say, no? I'm like 'let's pray about it,' right? She's incredible. She's incredible.

HS: Wow.

NV: So we got four kids under five years old, so that out of six of us, out of six of us, five of the six are under five foot two.

HS: Wow.. with your traveling, and all your outreach and ministry and then little kids, man, you guys are busy.

NV: Pray for us for that. We're so thankful. Last year I was away from home about a hundred and five days. This year's going to be 85, and we're going to bump that back to hopefully 75, and then when the kids are older, definitely want to take the family with me. I think that's one of the greatest educations you could ever give your grandkids. Take them to a real mission field, not just to build a house. Go see the slums. Go see poverty. Go see death. Go see it. Educate them. An orphanage. But you don't even have to go there. There are three hundred thousand children, approximately, in America waiting for a foster home.

HS: Wow.

NV: Out of a hundred thousand churches, if each church took three, we wouldn't need a foster care system. We have our mission field here. We got to find them. Seventeen thousand homeless people in L.A. We are the hands and feet. God move! God move! And He's saying I'm ready to move. Go and I'll move. Amen?

HS: Amen.

NV: So you put the word disabled and you put a G-O in front of the word disabled, it spells God is able'd. Yes? He's able when you go. It's not that He needs us, but we are the light and soul. We are His hands and feet. We are His soldiers on the battlefield.

HS: Amen. Amen. So you talked about it a little bit already, but you have a brand new book that just came out..

NV: Yes.

HS: ..called Be the Hands and Feet.

NV: Yes.

HS: So what's it about?

NV: This book is to help anybody.. first of all, the American church, I really believe that in every church there's at least two or three people in every church who have felt conviction, calling of the Holy Spirit to go and be an evangelist, but they don't know how to preach the gospel. They don't know how to share their story. How do you talk to an atheist? What's the argument when they say well how can a loving God bring pain. And just the top six or seven things that I as an evangelist can kind of it's not on the attacking, it's you knowing and being ready for faith.

You know in Ephesians he talks about having the full armor of God, and then feet ready to move? You ain't going to move until you really feel you're ready.

Now there's two phases. Its understanding, yes, I'm called and I'm sent, and I think the American church needs to get rid of their allergy to evangelists like never before, and don't see evangelists in your church as a separate entity, but part of the church of God. You've got apostles, teachers, and then evangelists as one of the five. And if we equip them and give them a boat, and show them how to use their nets, and they bring the lost souls in, not everyone's called to be an evangelist. But there are them out there. And it's not just the big ten ministries that you know. Multiply it by ten thousand. You know how America can see a million people preached to in one day? Fifty thousand of us on one day preach the gospel to twenty people. It's not hard. I think it's time that we realize it's not just about us maintaining our spiritual health and getting the status quo, it's about the church mobilizing, being unified, and let's be creative and aggressive in a beautiful wise and gentle way with knowledge, equipping them, and then sending them.

Be the Hands and Feet (Nick Vujicic)

HS: That's good, that's good. I know you address this some more in your book, but I think if you're like me or other people that are watching, I think what you're saying is like it stirs us, stirs our hearts. What would you say is the first.. for somebody who's like I want to do something for the Lord. I want to have purpose. I want God to use me. What would you say would be the very, very first step on that path toward letting God use you.

NV: The first step is write ten things that you're thankful to God for. If you can't pray for more than two minutes and you want to improve on that, just thank God for ten things.

Second – go and find the local ministry that you can give, not just financially, but give your time. Go to the homeless, go to a cancer ward and relieve the parents or make their children smile for the very first time in a long time. We need to understand that yes, we also need feeding, but some of us Christians are depressed and secret about it because of the principalities and powers of darkness saying 'you're not good enough, you don't have a story, God can't use you. Look at all your sin.' No. We know that God loves us and He wants to use us.

And we should never belittle the power of saying to the cashier, 17-year-old girl at the grocery store; get off your phone, I know I'm busy I'm my phone. I text 53 words a minute on my phone, but stop for 30 seconds, look her in the eye and say 'you're beautiful. How are you.' 'I'm all right.' She looks down, she doesn't even look you in the eye. You don't know what's in her mind. You don't know what's in her heart. You don't know if she daily witnesses her father verbally abusing her mother and she believes she's the one to blame. And the devil's saying 'you're nothing, no one sees you. You might as well disappear. Look, no one would even notice if you're not here.'

And you then say 'hey, can I pray for you?' Ninety-nine percent of the time, in my experiences, I'll even take 50%. I'll even take 1% and even if they say no, I'll say 'if it's okay, I just want you to know I'm going to pray for you from my car. Jesus loves you. I love you very much. Have a great day.' You don't know what God can do with that, and it's that intentionality of having hunger for the lost.

HS: Amen. Thank you, Nick, so much.

NV: You are awesome.

HS: And remember to get his book, Be the Hands and Feet. It is out right now.

DECLARATION – Hannah Schuller, Nick Vujicic

HS: And we get to hear from Nick in just one second, but before we do, would you stand with me for our declaration.

Would you put your hands out like this? 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.

Thank you. Thank you.

NV: Amen. Love you and Bobby.

HS: Thank you.

NV: May God bless you. Can we give a round of applause in glory to God for the Schuller family.

MESSAGE – Nick Vujicic "Be the Hands and Feet"

Really quickly I would like to read some lyrics of a song that me and my friends wrote. It's called "Hands and Feet:" He can take your broken pieces. He can make them beautiful if you could only see what He sees. He can heal a heart that's hurting. He can find you in the dark if you could only see what He sees.

In this place of desperation, reaching out for something real, there's a love that changes everything. Let my life be a reflection when the world looks at me, Jesus be the only one they see to love the ones in need, the way that you love me. God be my hands and feet you can have all of me. Come be my everything, Jesus. God take my hands and feet to help the ones in need. You are the Prince of Peace, you set the captives free, you are my everything, Jesus.

When you.. thank you, but it's all God, right? But I just want you to understand that when you hear a poem like that, when you sing an incredible song like the choir has sung, when you hear this band up here, and they talk about how we're on the battlefield, I really pray that if you feel that you've lost that spark, ask God, God, help me to never forget my first love, which is you. God doesn't love us, again, because of what we can do for Him, and too many Christians are waiting, well how's God going to move? How's God going to move? How's God going to move? There are people who pray for hours and hours and hours a day, which is awesome, but we also got to understand that it's all about putting faith in action with everyone around us.

Be the Hands and Feet (Nick Vujicic)

And when Luke 14 describes the story that Jesus says about how the Master wants everyone to come to the banquet, taste and see that the Lord is good. I want you to know that the only reason why anyone doesn't eat at the table of Jesus is because they didn't come in. The people who experience the kingdom are the ones that actually enter into the kingdom. Does that make sense? And when you go somewhere, have you ever recommended something to somebody. You know, your local store. Hey, did you hear about the 50% off? Oh my gosh! And I'm going to tell everyone I know.

I remember the day I gave my life to Jesus Christ at 15 years old. I actually just crossed over the 16th anniversary of me being baptized in our church in Australia. They had to push me down to really get dunked because I float. But little did I know that God can use a man without arms and legs to be His hands and feet. Little did I know that God would use the janitor at my high school to look at me one day when I'm 17-years-old and say you're going to be a speaker. And I said no way, you're crazy. He put me in front of some students at a Bible club at a high school, and people were crying. And then my mom was like what are you doing? And I'm like well I'm just sharing my story. She's like you have a story? And I'm like yes, I think so.

The people bring me back after speaking at their church, and I'm smiling and they're crying, and my mom's like what are you doing? Why are they crying? I'm like I don't know.

I take my dog out for a walk and I realize, you know what, every day counts. Every person counts. Every soul is God's child looking for hope. And if I don't tell them about Jesus, how can I sleep knowing that I could have had a chance. I could have been the conduit, but it had nothing to do with me. It's about God looking at the world and He says whom shall I send?

And I'd walk my dog and tied the leash to my chair and eventually guess what – I would start praying a prayer before my walk, say God, I'm not coming home with my dog until I talk to somebody and plant a seed of love, or pray with somebody, or smile at somebody deliberately, which actually sometimes ended up being a 40-minute conversation that ended in a prayer of salvation, and tears all around. My dog hated those long meetings. But God wouldn't send Life Without Limbs Ministry to 68 countries, 17 Presidents, 10 Governments, 8 million people face to face, 670 million people on TV so far, with no exaggeration. We got to understand that when we are faithful with the little, God then gives you other territory.

Some of us toy with standing at the gates of hell and redirecting traffic. But sometimes it gets hot, doesn't it get hot sometimes? And you have the ups and downs, ups and downs, ups and downs. I want you to know that every day that I am alive, it's a day that could be a possibility that God could use me to be His hands and His feet.

And we got a beautiful letter from one of our donors saying Nick, I can't go around the world. I'm not going to ever meet a President, but when I send you there, I know that we're on the front line and everyone has a part. Some people go ahead. Some people have a core data on the ground. Some people are the travel logistics, and the technical aspect of this recording. Every single person who plays a part in expanding the kingdom of God plays a part in the joy of the Lord. Plays a part in the inheritance and the jewels in our crown, that when we lay them down at the feet of Jesus, we give all the glory back to God. Why? Because God is the author and perfecter of our faith. It's in Him, through Him, for Him. Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord. God wants His house full.

I nearly died in 2016 here in California at a hospital. I lost 30% of my blood. I share about it in the book. I'm not going to get into that story.

Unfortunately, my dad also passed away in May of last year in 2017. And I miss him very, very much, but we want you to know that as a Christian family, we have seen the glory of God, even when we said goodbye to our dad. Why? Can God heal? Yes. But can God also take home? Yes. Does God know when is best for my dad to go home? Absolutely would never want to argue with God on that one. And I want you to know that he's up there looking down and one day I'll be up there. One day, my family's going to be up there. One day, we'll all be there, amen? And when we see God face to face, I wonder if God's going to look me in the eye and say well done, my good and faithful servant. Welcome home, and then possibly. Everyone say possibly, look over my shoulder and say who else did you bring? If you're here, God's with you. Matthew 10:19, "Do not be afraid of what to say, for its not you who's speaking, but I through you, says God." We don't have to be afraid. When the Master sends out somebody to go and compel Him, were we not the person that was once invited for that banquet? Now that we've tasted and have seen that the Lord is good, that there is nothing that this world can ever satisfy.

Be the Hands and Feet (Nick Vujicic)

Our soul, it hungers for how we've been made, and can only find rest and peace in the joy of God. It's not about being here on earth, and doing things as much as its being and knowing Him, but then as you know Him, you get to know His heart. Now we are the servant of God, where the Master says go. Fill my house. When you feel my Holy Spirit convict you to open your mouth, open it, and I will fill your mouth of yours, with my words. It's got nothing to do with intellect. It's not about how good of a speaker you are. Its can you in three minutes share with somebody, or five minutes, or ten minutes, or twenty minutes, have you ever written down your testimony.

For every single one of you who's older than me, I'm jealous of you. Can I tell you why? Very jealous. Because you're closer to the finishing line than I am. There is one thing I regret never asking my dad to do, which I'm asking you to do. Write down your testimony. Write down who you were before Jesus and what happened when you met with Jesus because your first ministry is your great, great, great, great grandchildren, as well, that you won't meet here on earth.

Let me show you my greatest ministry. Photos of my family. This is Kanae. She's half Japanese, half Mexican. We call that Japsican. We met, it was love at first sight. I couldn't feel my legs. And then we got.. oh they got that one. Kiyoshi is five years old. Now Dejan is two and a half, and now we're celebrating the delivery here of a blessing from God. All I'm going to say is be.. Olivia and Ellie, just be weary of those who pray for a double portion on your life, all right? I'm going to say this, that we as a family, that is our greatest ministry. How you love people, how quick you are to forgive. The one soul that I first want closest to God is my wife. My wife. I need to minister to her needs as Jesus would minister to my wife. I need to be Jesus in the home. And eventually, we as a family will go out to the byways and the highways. I don't care if my sons never write a book, never become someone that goes on stage, but I want them to know the truth, and when they know the truth, they are free indeed. And once you're freed, all you want to do is help; help others know that that love is real.

The book of the hands and feet is about the American church that I really believe we need to empower, equip, evangelism, not as a separate entity, but under the umbrella of the church that the local church grows. Trust in God with all your heart. Lean not upon your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways and He will direct your paths. That's Proverbs 3:5 and 6. This, like never before, is a nation with still the door open to preach the gospel. Will we? Will we? Will you share the love of Jesus and say yes, God, here I am. Send me, use me, use me to be your hands and your feet by your grace, in Jesus' name, amen. God bless you, church.

BENEDICTION – Chad Blake

And now for the benediction: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord turn His countenance upon you and grant you His peace, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, amen.