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Liberty University

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Q & A with Chuck Norris on graduation day 2008

May 10, 2008

Q: Why did you accept this invitation to come today?

A:“I was always a fan of Jerry Falwell’s (Sr.’s) and Jerry (Jr.) gave us a call and asked us. This is the first time I’ve ever done anything like this. We pretty much stick close to home and we have our own charities that we do, but I just felt like the Lord directed me to come and do this. And I talked to [his wife] Gena about it and we discussed it and said, ‘Well if we’re going to do one, this would be the great one to do.’”

Q: You are receiving an honorary degree from Liberty. What does that mean to you?

A:“I didn’t know that until we were on our way here. For a little Oklahoma boy who just barely got out of high school, this is quite an honor.” [To which his wife said, laughing, “They’ll probably kid you, because they have to call you doctor now.”]

Q: What do you have to say to encourage seniors graduating from Liberty?

A:“My life was a very difficult life growing up, and I had a lot of insecurities. ... I didn’t know where the Lord was directing me. And here’s a kid who grew up extremely shy and non-athletic, and two of the things you would never expect him to accomplish is becoming a world champion in martial arts and becoming an actor. ... I’ve always wondered why the Lord directed me that way ... and then I found out because it gave me the opportunity to start a foundation where I can work with at-risk children and teach them martial arts in the inner city schools as a way of raising their self-esteem and getting them on the right track. I could never have done that if I hadn’t had martial arts success and film success. My film success is what got me the opportunity to meet with former President Bush when he was in office; he’s the one who helped me get this [the foundation] started.”