

Week 22

5/24/12

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Thank you so much for joining us. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: We're going to hear -- you're going to hear the voice of a woman expressing her feelings and her gratitude for her husband and you're going to hear what every woman wants to be able to say about her husband and what every husband ought to live with the desire to have his wife and God say it.

I've been a friend with Daniel Alan for a long time. He started listening to me preach in Alabama where he lives and other areas and watching us on television more than 30 years ago. He actually heard us go through our journey where God delivered me from personal defeat and really not only the personal defeat and Betty, from fear, but he delivered me from bondage to religion, those barriers that we build between our other professing Christians even.

And he was going through some of the same stretching process and it really became an encouragement to him. A very successful businessman, he began to support us. He has been a great supporter now for about 30 years. We got to be pretty close. And he's a country boy; he helps support a band that's called CrossCountry The Band. They do their music at the big NASCAR events, and they witness and they win hundreds and hundreds of people to Christ, all over the country. That's the biggest spectator sport in the country.

Daniel has been the major supporter but his wife, as you're going to find, was the inspiration for what's happening.

I want you to welcome our good friend, Daniel Alan to *LIFE Today*. Daniel, it's good to see you. Thanks for your help. Thank you for your friendship.

Daniel: Thank you for what you do!

James: Well, you make it possible, people like you. You really do. I want you to know as a businessman a lot of times guys get so wrapped up in business they don't really think about living beyond their world and totally changing somebody else's world but you have and I want to thank you.

Daniel: Amen. You taught us with your example as we've watched you over the years. So we appreciate you.

James: I want to talk about Tanya. I met with you recently and I've really experienced one of the deeper emotional moments of my life just listening to what happened, the story. I want you to kind of catch our viewers up. But your precious wife, Tanya was quite a singer and yet several years ago she had some surgery and then went back for some subsequent surgery, which you said I think they did at least a partial hysterectomy and it threw a -- did a complete, and it threw her into a hormonal upheaval. Her body just went almost beyond ability to even comprehend. Tell us about what happened.

Daniel: Well, you know after those surgeries she just chemically and hormonally just went into chaos. Took her to several doctors and couldn't get help; finally got her to a doctor in Memphis that told us that every chemical system in her body was in chaos. It just took so much that she would have to do to get in balance. At the time she didn't think she could do it. She got worse and worse and finally, just was so embarrassed to go out as a -- with so many folks knowing her and she just locked herself in a bedroom for a long time.

James: You're talking about for years then.

Daniel: Yeah. And went through a very tough period. It was long in that time where we were going to the men's retreats with you, and you were teaching us about loving your wife unconditionally. One of my partners that's been with me for years, Scott McCloud was with us and it changed our life, it really did. It changed my life because we don't talk that much about the battles we go through and you do. Most preachers don't -- most preachers just never let you see the human side and the struggles and the battles and you were very open. That changed us.

James: Betty has been such an inspiration to me. I guess maybe I've been inspired to seek to love her beyond my own ability to love and with God's ability because of the way she loves me, which is so unconditionally.

Betty: You know as couples, there are things that we bring into a marriage that can really -- they're challenges in our relationship. And to be able to communicate with one another and to love one another and to realize that we are one, we're committed to be one and when one has a challenge, it is our challenge, it is not your challenge or their challenge and they need to get it worked out, but it is together. And that makes the big difference. I understand what you were talking about. A lot of times, as Christians, we don't want

people to see that side of our world because we're supposed to have it all together. But we're on a journey and we're still learning. We've been together almost 50 years and we're still learning how to live together.

Daniel: Amen! Amen!

James: When I think about Tanya and I know what a great singer she was and then I realize that one of her dreams and passions was to encourage this band, the CrossCountry The Band in this patriotic vein. She really wanted these musicians to sing about loving our country. And really, we lost her just a few months back. She went out challenging this band to take the message to the masses and saying to the church, "We need to witness to everybody and use all of our ability." And that was the passion that was in her. Am I right about that?

Daniel: That's right. She just a couple days before she passed away she called me and said -- just got right in my face and said, "I want you to make me a promise that you're going to help Leo" -- Leo is the lead singer with CrossCountry -- we've been working with those guys about 12 years. But "You're going to help them carry this across the country."

And on the day she passed away she actually sent Leo an e-mail and she sent Billy Austin, the writer in Nashville that wrote the title cut on the record, that him and Leo wrote together, sent him an e-mail and just encouraged him to use his gift of writing to continue to write songs to touch this country.

James: Well, and they're doing it and they're going to do it. As a matter of fact, you'll hear from him in just a few moments. I really want you to pray for them because they are going to the masses.

What I want to do, because I'm grateful that you let me hear a very private, very intimate moment that Tanya shared with you when she said a good-bye one day because she didn't get to tell you good-bye so she wanted to say it and it really came to mean an awful lot, especially when she went to sleep and didn't wake up. I want you to listen to the message that Tanya left her husband.

Begin audio clip:

Tanya: Hey, my husband. Good morning. I'm sorry I didn't get to tell you bye. Thank you for making coffee and waking me up. I pray you have a wonderful day today and I know that you will because you just have the Lord in you and the spirit of God in you and he will flow through you. And you have so many gifts and talents to offer those

businessmen that there's no doubt in my mind the Lord will use you in a very mighty way today.

I just wanted you to know that you will be in my prayers and that I really love and appreciate you, and I think you are the most wonderful husband that God could have ever given a woman like me. Thank you so much for loving me the way you do.

God bless you, Hon! Bye!

End of clip

James: Now remember now, in that emotional turmoil and physical upheaval, she locked herself in a room for several years. And Dan was able to love his wife like Christ loved the church.

I want to say to every man listening... and you may not do anything greater on this earth than really love your wife, the way she longs to be loved. Every little girl grows up wanting daddy to love her, wanting to be pretty and accepted. And they want to be loved by someone who really loves them, not just for what they do but for who they are.

Tanya couldn't do a lot. In that room, she did pray a lot and she wrote a lot of prayers and fighting with her emotions. Dan came home to be a better husband.

I would just say, listen to me, ladies, please hear me. You can't make your husband love you that way. God, I'd like to inspire them to. I want to learn to love Betty more fully and freely and more effectively. And I pray that for all the men who are watching -- and I pray that for every woman that you'll find that love.

All of you here in the studio, would go home tonight and get down on your knees and ask God to help you know how to love your wife in ways that maybe daddy never taught you; maybe you never saw daddy love your mother that way. I didn't; I didn't even have a dad.

But I really appreciate you, Dan. I'm going to honor Tanya's request. I'm going to put what she wanted you to help.

And Tanya, I'm helping Daniel do what you wanted. We're going to help this CrossCountry The Band.

Leo is sitting out here with his black hat on right here in the middle -- got a big old smile on his face. You're going to hear him. I want you to hear because you see your wife thought our country was in trouble and she wanted people to stand up.

We quote in the book, *Indivisible*, we quote Bonhoeffer, "Not to stand is to stand. Not to speak is to speak." We've got too many church folks who are just hiding the light and don't stand. Well, let's stand that ground.

I want you to listen and see this DVD presentation of one of the songs, Stand Our Ground. Listen to it.

There's folks in this country
Trying to make us see their hell bent philosophies
We can't pray in our schools or talk about God
They're trying to change history
This country was built on God and the Bible
Over my dead body will it change
If I have to fight every day and night
I'm going to stake my claim

There's people in some states pushing off their ways
Trying to take our liberties
They say they fight for everyone's right
Then take away nativities
They want Christ out of Christmas
And change the way we marry
And take our commandments down
I think we've had enough
It's time to get tough
We're gonna stand our ground

We're gonna stand our ground
No matter what the cost
We're gonna stand our ground
We're gonna take back what's been lost
Yeah, we've had setbacks
But we're on the right track
Things will be different now
Come hell or high water

Every son, every daughter are gonna stand our ground

I love the folks in the east
and the folks in the west
I have nothing against them at all
But I was born and raised in the deep, deep south
Where we do things different, y'all
We believe in God, country, and family
We pray when we're needin' help
So back off all right
So you just might get
a whipping with the Bible belt
We're gonna stand our ground
No matter what the cost
We're gonna stand our ground

We're gonna take back what's been lost
Yeah, we've had set backs
but we're on the right track
Things will be different now
Come hell or high water
Every son, every daughter are gonna stand our ground

Yeah

We're gonna stand our ground
No matter what the cost
We're gonna stand our ground
We're gonna take back what's been lost
We've had setbacks but we're on the right track
And things will be different now
Come hell or high water
Every son, every daughter are gonna stand our ground

Come hell or high water
Every son, every daughter are gonna stand our ground

[Cheers & Applause]

James: That's good, Leo! You did good even without your hat on. You know it?

I want you to know where you can get it. It's likely in the record and bookstores but there's the web site. And CrossCountry The Band will be at the NASCAR races performing and winning people to Christ. So you pray for them.

Would you say thanks to Daniel Alan for not only supporting *LIFE* but for supporting this wonderful group? And he participates in those outreaches.

And thank God, Dan, for sharing Tanya with us.

Tanya, I believe you've inspired a whole lot of men to love their wives.

I want to say a thank you to all of you in a way that I wish I had your hand, where you knew I was really talking right to you. I want to thank you for the way you've enabled Betty and me to do so much more than care. You've made sharing a reality and saving lives -- not just wishful thinking.

I want to show you a real desperate situation right now where our mission team was moved as deeply as they've ever been moved because of the critical need in South Sudan. You've heard Hollywood actors talking about it. Well, rightly so! But nobody ought to care about it any more than people who love God and love their country and love others. If you love God, you're going to love others.

I want you to listen, I want you to listen to a mother. I want you to see what she faced and I want you to know we can change things for a whole lot of people but we've got to do it together. Watch.

On the mission field:

Announcer: The people of Sudan endured decades of turmoil and suffering during their Civil War. Armed marauders from the north would often raid villages in the predominantly Christian southern regions to steal their land as well as establish tribal and Muslim dominance.

Announcer: Now that South Sudan is independent, thousands of exiles are returning to their homeland. Equipped with their faith in God, a glimmer of hope, and the clothes on

their backs, the villagers are eager to start over but are currently living in meager temporary camps with very little food.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Would you take that mother and that little child? She said, "I don't know how... how we're going to survive." I can tell you how. Would you help?

Now think about it. I was so amazed when missionaries told me years ago, now more than 20 years ago, did you know that for \$30 we can feed three children for six months? \$50 we can feed five, and \$100 we can feed ten. Now it's not quite that -- it's not quite that expansive in its effect. Now it's \$30 for three months; \$50 for three months, five children; \$100 ten children for three months.

Betty and I and the others, we just would keep working to try to keep getting the months together, and we keep trusting God and asking you. Right now we really face a severe serious challenge and that is that we've got 20,000 starving, desperate children right there, many of them are Christians. They were driven out. South Sudan now have separated from the radical Muslim nation of Sudan. And it is South Sudan; it is primarily Christian, and I'm talking about dedicated Christians.

Just like Franklin Graham, Billy Graham's son said, he said, "James, you can see Christians in the Sudan who are just like the ones in the book of Acts." He said, "You've got to go with me there."

We did! Years ago, we went with him and we saw it. And we've never left. And our missionaries have never left. They keep going into the hardest hit regions. Right now we've got some real situations that are increasing and that's why George Clooney went over there and talked about it. It is serious! It's a whole lot worse than what you saw where he was where our workers are. It's devastating but it's the very concern -- the rightful concern that he expressed.

Would you dial the telephone number? Would you say, "I'll answer that mother's heart cry? I can take care of ten of those desperate children; hundreds of thousands that you're helping all over Africa in needy areas. We're going to help you, James. We're going to help you take care of that additional 20,000 in South Sudan." Would you dial the number? Take your bankcard and use it like a check? If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*. Make the largest gift you can.

Don't think, "If I only help three that's too few." No! \$30 is huge, it saves those lives. It answers that mother's prayer for her situation. But if you could help us take care of 100 and make a \$1,000 gift or several thousand, I believe you'll do it! I believe you want to do it so I want to thank you for it. Please make that call. If you want to go online, *LifeToday.org* you can do that.

We're going to send you some special gifts to bless you, your children, your grandchildren, to bless you in your Bible study. We'll gladly send the book that is impacting so many lives right now and could correct our nation's course, *Indivisible*, to say thank you for helping us save those lives. Thank you for your gift! Thank you for making that call.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment, a child is drawing his last breath struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone and without our help many like him face death as well. Today you can make a difference -- and help save a life.

In addition to the 400,000 children already in Life's mission feeding program our teams have found a region in South Sudan with another 20,000 children in need of immediate life-saving assistance. Our mission teams are in place but we desperately need your help to replenish critically needed food supplies immediately! Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift, we'll rush you the Jesus Storybook Bible. This beautifully illustrated book will help your children discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation, and at the center of their lives too!

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children, you may request our New International Version and New King James side-by-side Bible with a two-column format for easy comparison.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and save the lives of 100 children, and you may also request The Lion and The Lamb bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online right now!

End of clip

On the mission field:

Isak: "Eyes are the window to the soul" is what the Word of God tells us and yet what you're seeing today is lifeless eyes, the windows to a dying child. Because this child is dying for one simple reason, the life is stolen out of its eyes and out of its body because it doesn't have enough food.

Yet, the answer to ending the suffering and this pain, the answer to rescuing and saving this child's life is so very simple. It's just you getting up right now, dialing the number on your screen, going online and giving the gift of life, giving the gift of food to this child and to children all over this area that so desperately need your help today.

In the studio:

James: We're going to be sending you the book, *Indivisible*, to bless you. We're going to be sending you the side-by-side Bible, the New International Version and the New King James version. Our pastor, Robert Morris preaches from the New King James. Beth Moore teaches on *LIFE Today* from the New International Version; they're great versions, very reliable, great study. We'll send you the children's Jesus Storybook Bible; it will be a great blessing to you. We send you those blessings to simply say thank you.

From the bottom of our heart we want to say thank you for helping us support the missionaries and rescue and save the lives of those children and their families. Would all of you here join with Betty and me in saying another big thanks to Daniel Alan? Would you do that?

Daniel, God bless you.

God bless Tanya.

Tanya, God is blessing your memory and he's answering so many of those prayers you prayed while you were alone.

Thank all of you for your friendship. Thank all of you here. Thank you so much.

Announcer: Next week on *LIFE Today*, James and Betty are joined by Jay Richards, Mark Davis, and Janet Porter to discuss freedom and responsibility.