

Week 18

4/30/13

James: Oh, boy! Thank you so much. It is a joy to come into your home. I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

I have been an evangelist for 50 years. If you haven't gone to JamesRobison.net and read about the conference or to LifeToday.org where you can actually see all the conference speakers and see who will be there, how you register, do it because we want you to come and be part of our 50th anniversary conference.

Betty, when you've been an evangelist and you've preached to the beautiful crowds of people and you've seen the multitudes come to Christ, millions of people coming to Christ for which I'm very grateful, that's always in your heart.

As a matter of fact, I've told you that through our mission outreaches even as an evangelist preaching in the coliseums and the stadiums, when we began to undergird outreaches and we began to support mission outreaches and we begin to care for the suffering and the dying, the hearts of the people and the communities and oftentimes, the nations open for the love of God and the gospel to be preached. And they were receptive because you can tell people about the love of God but when you've revealed it to them with expressions of compassion, they're open, and you'll see multitudes come. But also, you'll see these great moves of God, like Reinhard Bonnke saw all over Africa.

By the way, he and our missionaries are close friends. He and Peter Pretorius did a lot of things together, encouraging one another, undergirding one another. But when you've seen those huge crowds, literally, Betty, sometimes not just a million but more than a million, and many times, hundreds of thousands coming to Christ in a single night; and in a matter of days, a million people or more are trusting Christ -- that happened.

Well, a young man that has now become, in a way, heir apparent -- and that's not something Reinhard decided. This young man was working in the mail room; he was like cleaning up the place. And yet, God had chosen him, and really spoke to him when he was just a boy that he would go to Africa. And now the Christ for All Nations ministry, the young man we have with us, Daniel Kolenda, who wrote this book, *Live Before You Die* -- by all means, and you can live forever -- this young man is now doing

those crusades. I want you to meet him, and we're going to talk about what he wrote in this book. But would you welcome him, please, to *LIFE Today*, Daniel Kolenda?

Daniel, good to see you.

Daniel: It's a pleasure to be here.

James: It was a joy to talk to you yesterday and hear the story of how you actually suddenly found yourself preaching with Reinhard and now preaching the overseas crusades. And Reinhard is now focusing some on doing something here in the United States; I'm really excited about it. If people want to know what the ministry is doing, kind of see scheduling, and like where you might be preaching in Africa, what web site would they go to?

Daniel: [Www.CFAN.org](http://www.CFAN.org), that stands for ChristForAllNations.org.

James: All right. Now I want you to tell us about this book, *Live Before You Die* because it looks to... very, very interesting to me. I didn't have a chance to read it because I just got it but I'm curious to know how you came to write it and what is the message you want our viewers to both hear and then read in the book?

Daniel: Well, I think the title is a great place to start. Somebody said, "Why did you name it that?" I think when I was a kid there was a movie that was real famous -- we're allowed to talk about movies on Christian television; right? It was a movie called *Brave Heart*. And the main character, William Wallace says this famous quote. He says, "Every man dies but not every man really lives." I heard somebody else say it this way, "Don't fear death but rather the unlived life." I think that's what we experience a lot is that people find themselves just going through the motions. Maybe as a kid they had dreams. Maybe the Lord had called them to do something great. Maybe they wanted to help rescue kids in Africa and to feed and to do something that mattered in their life but now they're just going day-to-day, they're just living, they're just existing.

My message is that there is more to life than just having a heart that is pumping blood and lungs that are absorbing oxygen. That true life, the highest form of life is found in the will of God. Ephesians chapter two, verse 20 says that we're God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do. That means before you were born, God designed you and created you for a particular purpose in this world. And you will never be fulfilled, you'll never be happy until you find that purpose and begin to walk in it.

When I hear you talking about the kids in Africa, I see a man and a woman who have found their calling in life and I see pleasure in you. It's not something that you begrudge or that's a burden; even though sometimes it is painful, for sure, but there's pleasure in it and there is fulfillment in it because you found what God has called you to do.

I found what God has called me to do and I want to share that with everybody. I want people to discover their calling and to fulfill the destiny in life.

Betty: Well, sadly though, there are Christians that don't understand the name on that book. The title just -- it really gets me because I was there in so many ways. I was a Christian but I really wasn't allowing God to do anything with my life. I had a lot of things that kept me from hearing God, to be honest with you: fear, inferiority, things that just trapped me to where I just kind of thought, well, I'll just exist until Jesus comes.

Daniel: In fact, I find it frustrating sometimes when I travel around and I minister in churches. And it seems to me when I hear people speak and give testimonies and whatnot, it seems to me that the Christians think that their job in this world is just to hang on by the skin of their teeth until Jesus comes and gets them out of this old God-forsaken world and let the world burn! We're going to go up in the rapture. That's all they think about.

James: That's sad to me. That's a sad way to live.

Daniel: And we've been here for 2,000 years since Jesus died.

Somebody said to me, "Well, we're still here because Jesus is preparing my mansion in heaven."

I said, "If I really thought that, the only thing holding the Lord back was a mansion, I would say, 'Forget the mansion! Come get me out of here.'"

There is obviously something more going on. Why are we still in this world? It is because we are here for a purpose. We weren't saved just to be decorative knickknacks sitting on God's shelf filling space in it in heaven for eternity. We were saved for a purpose. We were saved to impact the world. We were saved to make a difference.

Again, seeing these pictures that we've been seeing of what you're doing in the third world has really stirred my heart. I hear people all the time say, "Well, if God is really a God of love, why does he allow people to suffer like that?"

You know what? The reality is that God has provided for every one of those needs to be met. In fact, I often say to people about our crusades, we already have all the money we need for the crusades but a lot of it is still in your bank account. The ones holding back the miracle is not God, it is us, and we can be a part of the solution, we can be a part of the miracle. That is our privilege and our responsibility and our duty in this world.

James: Well, we've got so many regulations and programs, quite frankly, here in our own country that limit us even as farmers and the productivity potential of our agriculture to actually do even more to feed. As a matter of fact, the other nations of the world, when they see what we're doing, they actually will provide us bulk food supplies to help, and they're glad to do it. You know why they give it to us and to the missionaries? -- Because we get the job done. We don't just talk about caring for the poor, we go right out hands-on and we see that their lives are changed and we don't leave them there, we try to show them how they can grow a crop, how they can fulfill a job and how they can feed -- that's the way it's supposed to work.

By the way, Betty mentioned something here a moment ago and I brought it up about how she was held back. You have a chapter here called "The Enemy: Cemetery of Fear." What do you mean by "The cemetery of fear"?

Daniel: Well, you know there is a story in the Bible; most Christians are familiar with it. It's the story of the servants that were given talents. Two of the servants went out, they invested their talent and multiplied it and the master said, "Well done!"

But there was a third servant who took his one talent and he buried it in the ground. When the master came and said, "Why did you do this?"

I was so fascinated by the response of this servant. He said, "I was afraid. And so I buried your talent in the ground." It suddenly hit me that in Genesis it says that we were made out of the ground. And many of us bury our talents in the ground. I'm not talking about the ground in your backyard, I'm talking about this ground -- we are the ground. And we bury our talents within ourselves because of fear -- because we're afraid of what people will say about us, think about us. We're afraid of failure. We're afraid of rejection. We have the fear of man. We have all these different things that

hold us back. And the reality is that one day this ground is going to be laid in this ground.

I think one of the most tragic places you could visit in this world is a cemetery; not because of the people that are buried there -- we're all going to die. Not because of the people that are there but because of what is inside of the people that are buried there. Think about forgiveness that was never granted. Think about books, songs, poems that were never written. Think about children in Africa that could have been helped. Think about all of the good that could have been done in this world if people would have broken out of their selfish insecurities and fear.

Notice that the master didn't put his arm around that servant and say, "Oh, you poor fearful servant. Let me help you." He rebuked him. He called him a wicked and a lazy servant. Why? Because the fear and the insecurity was an actually a reflection of his own selfishness. What we have to do when it comes to the fears in our life that keeps us from impacting the world around us for God's kingdom, we have to face those fears, we've got to get over those fears because God's kingdom is depending on it, people's lives are depending on it, and there are eternal things at stake.

James: Here's a problem a lot of people have. You never make the commitment to share the life and love of God with others. By just showing a legitimate interest in them, sometimes you think you've got to go out and get them converted. No, that's God's business. You go out and love them and witness to them.

Betty and I have been married 50 years; we've been in ministry 50 years. A lot of people say, "How is it that you all seem to have joy?" Look at her smile. She is still happy. Living with me you've got to have the Spirit of God on you to stay happy all the time. But Betty and I are happy.

Here's what happened to us. We really signed on for God, and our commitment and relationship was with God, period, first and foremost. And we signed on to share him with everybody, for the rest of our lives. It wasn't something we just tried every now and then. So we started out just witnessing to a few people. I filled the stadiums here in this area where you're seated when I was in my early 20s, but I went to the parking lots of all the hang-outs where the kids hung. And I would be there at night talking to them, and then they would come to the stadium and bring every kid in the whole area because I went to them. But I would witness to individuals; I don't care where it was. I've never stopped. 50 years later, I'm still doing it.

Listen, Daniel, most Christians never started the first time. It was like they're terrified. Their heart gets up here in their throat and they just choke to death. Really, we have visitation programs in a lot of the evangelical churches and people go out and they park in front of the house and pray. You know what most of them are praying? They pray they won't be home.

[Laughter]

They're so terrified and fear-filled. So when you're talking about living, you're talking about living filled with the spirit, filled with love, filled with compassion but also filled with fearlessness, with boldness, because that's the characterization of the New Testament church that was doing what Jesus said do -- they were bold.

Daniel: And you know we are so afraid of what people are going to think about us, especially in the context of sharing the gospel. It is amazing. Sometimes you'll struggle within yourself, should I, shouldn't I? You go back and forth, back and forth, what if they don't like me? What if they get upset with me? And when you finally do talk to them you realize they've been praying for somebody to come and share with them. And you discover it was so easy.

Actually, fear most of the time is like a mirage; the closer you get to it, the less substance it actually has. Finally, when you come up on it, you realize it was all just your imagination.

James: What are some of the secrets that you share in the book to try and discover your calling and what God has for you? What are some of the insights you give people?

Daniel: One of them is the subject of faithfulness. We talked yesterday about how I started in the ministry that I'm at now in the warehouse. You talked about how before you took the stadiums in this area you were preaching one-on-one to people. I had a young guy come to me and he had tears in his eyes after one meeting and he said, "I need you to pray for me." He said, "I have a calling like yours. I've already seen the visions. I'm going to preach to multitudes of people in stadiums all across America." He said, "You have to pray for me because no preacher will give me his pulpit."

I said, "I think I can help you."

His eyes lit up. I think he thought I was going to give him a platform. He said, "How can you help me?"

I said, "I can tell you how you can make this happen. Go ahead and start however you can start. Go preach on the street corners. Go tell your lost loved ones about Jesus. Tell your friends about Jesus. I can promise you one thing. You're never going to preach to stadiums full of people if you don't have the courage to knock on your neighbor's door and tell them about Jesus."

Promotion always comes -- it is a principle throughout scripture. Jesus said, "He who was faithful in little will be made ruler over much." He said, "If you can't be trusted with someone else's property, how can you be trusted with property of your own?" So I think if it was just this one principle that you could take it to the bank, he that is faithful in little, will be made ruler over much.

But there are many other principles as well. One of them that has been personally something that is very powerful in my own life is this principle of taking action because again, you're talking about how the Christians are sitting in the car in front of the house praying. I love what Pastor Bonnke has said. He said, "What would happen if every Christian in America were to fast and pray 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for America to be saved? Do you know what would happen? Nothing! Nothing would happen until somebody wakes up in the prayer meeting and goes out to the street and tells somebody that Jesus saves." And that's the reality is that it is not just about prayer, it's not just about good intentions, it is not just about seeing hungry kids on TV and weeping, it is about doing something.

We have this parable in the scripture where there were these two sons. And the one son, the father came and said, "Will you go work in my field?"

And the son said, "Yes, father. I'll go do it!" But he never did it.

Then there was a second son. The father said, "Will you go work in my field?"

And the son said, "No, I won't." But then he went and did it.

And the moral of the story is clear, that in the end, it is not the good intentions or the empty promises that count, it is actually getting up and doing what is required.

So one evangelist said to me, "I'm called, but I'm just waiting at home for the Lord to provide for me."

I said, "Why didn't you go out? Why didn't you take some action?"

He said to me, "Well, Jesus said he feeds the birds of the air." So he said, "If the Lord takes care of the birds, then he will also take care of me."

So I said to him, "Tell me what does the Lord actually do for the birds? Does he build a nest for them? Does he drop the worms into the nest for them? No, what he does is he gives them wings to fly, and he puts them in a world full of what they need. But they have got to spread their wings and fly and go and get what has been provided for them." And it's the same for us. If you sit in your nest waiting for worms to drop, you're just going to get hungry. We've got to spread our wings, we've got to take action and we will see mountains move.

James: And you notice the birds always get up early in the morning and go to work. They go out looking for what God provides and we need to learn that lesson. I learned it very young.

Do you appreciate Daniel? I just love... the Spirit of God is all over this young man. The web site is there on the screen. If you say, "Well, I may not be able to get it in the bookstore, can I go online and get it?" You certainly can.

And also, Christ for All Nations, there also is the web site if you want to know where Daniel is going to be preaching, you want to know what Reinhard Bonnke is doing in his prayers for our nation, it will tell you what to do.

While you were talking there I was looking over here at this beautiful little bronze right here. This is now one that we are really using in our anniversary. We have taken this beautiful bronze and we put the golden anniversary tint to it.

But what this is right here, Daniel, is an older brother feeding his little brother; this is Brotherly Love. That is precisely what you're seeing and that's what we need to do.

Yesterday on the program, we saw a little girl that touched my heart as much as any I've ever seen. We were doing our best to save her life, we didn't. She passed away before we could get there with more help. Here's the key. This is Brotherly Love. This is the love of God through us. I want you to watch and see the opportunity God's given you to share what God has blessed you with in order to give love and life to someone else.

On the mission field:

Announcer: This year, *LIFE Outreach International* and James and Betty Robison are celebrating 50 years of ministry. As part of the commitment to putting love in action nearly 25 years ago *LIFE Outreach* introduced the mission feeding program in Africa. According to our missionary partners, mission feeding has helped save the lives of seven million starving children. Currently, *LIFE Outreach* helps feed nearly 400,000 children in crisis areas and assists with school feeding programs to encourage school attendance and education.

On a recent trip to Angola, the *LIFE* mission team met a young man named Jose who grew up participating in the mission feeding program. As a child, he lived in a remote village and attended a school that received food every day. Now Jose works as a mission partner within the feeding program and his story embodies the heart of *LIFE Outreach International* and why it was founded.

>> When I was a child in a village like this, most of the time we didn't know if we would eat each day. But when mission feeding came to my school we got a hot meal every day during class. My friends and I were motivated to come to school and learn because we knew we would get to eat. If it wasn't for mission feeding, I don't think I would have gone to school.

Before a feeding program comes to a village, not many children go to school. They stay home and work with their families. But when a school has mission feeding, the children are excited about school and you see them running to the classroom each morning.

I'm very happy to be a monitor in the mission feeding program. I'm very proud that I get to help these children just like I was helped as a child. One day, maybe one of these children will work for mission feeding too.

I want to thank the mission feeding donors, not just because I work here, but because I am a human being. I live in this community and I see the condition of the children. Please, do not stop helping. Carry on!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, that's what we're doing. You may not know this but the school feeding programs that the World Food program has picked up... as a matter of fact, there was a democratic congressman from Ohio, Tony Hall who actually was appointed to the

head of the World Food program and was based over in Italy. And he actually took that school feeding to the third-world countries, and it was modeled there by Peter Pretorius and the missionaries, what we'd been doing. And we started there like you see, 25 years ago.

So, Betty, we not only rescue the children that are dying but once we get it stabilized in order to encourage them to move beyond, we will feed at the schools. That may not touch your heart strings like, "Oh my! If we don't get it there they won't make it." That's where we start. But we want to take them beyond that. We want to take them into a sound future because we believe that's what we're supposed to do as loving people and as Christians, and as people who believe God loves us and wants to teach us and disciple us and train us. So that's what we're seeking to do.

Here's what I'd like you to understand. That's a miracle story. That's where you see way beyond what we actually saw yesterday were the little girl in the last stages of her life that we were trying to save but we didn't. She literally died that night; she never saw the next day. There are hundreds of thousands of children right now and especially in areas, in particular... let me just tell you this. Right now in various parts of Africa there is a very, very bad drought -- severe -- and the malnourishment is extreme. The missionaries are saying to us, James, we have to continue. We have established the feeding centers, we've got to have the resources, we have to have the food.

So I'm asking you please, dial the telephone number; use your bankcard like a check. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* or you can go online and many people are doing this, frankly every day. About half of the support that comes in comes through LifeToday.org. It's a wonderful way to be able to give.

But would you let us know what you're doing? If you'll use your bankcard call us. If you're writing a check, call us now. Tell us you're putting it in the mail.

Remember this, \$30, \$50, or \$100 enables us to feed three, five, or ten children. Here's what I want you to pray about. Pray about giving \$100 and help us take care of 10 children. Help us continue the school feeding and increase their ability to learn and the desire to learn, to be nourished, and help us save the lives of those that are so desperate.

This year, our 50th anniversary, we're offering the beautiful "Brotherly Love" bronze, and that is such a beautiful picture. But you see, if you look closely, there is a bowl there -- one of our soup bowls. The bright orange bowls that you, the viewers said,

"Can't you give those children so they don't have those old hot tin cans burn their little fingers when you put the hot soup in it. Can't you do something about it?"

We said, "Well, the missionaries said not if we can't give them food."

You said, "We'll do both. We'll give them the bowls, we'll give them the food." The bowl is here. There is food in the bowl. And the big brother is feeding his little brother because he has the food that your love made possible.

Please dial the number. If you could possibly help us care for 100 children, make that \$1,000 gift. But whatever you can do, it's going to help give life. Thank you for making that call. Thanks so much for your gift.

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. You can help save a life. Life's mission feeding teams are in place right now ready to answer the hunger cries of 400,000 suffering children in remote areas of Africa.

With previous food reserves gone, and parts of Africa facing its worst drought and food shortage in years, we desperately need to replenish our 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 would like to send you A Good Word for a Great Day, a 365 day devotional providing an inspirational new word, Bible verse, and promise for each new day.

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children, you may request The Family Reading Bible featuring easy-to-use reading tracks, questions, and fun facts to help engage your children in God's Word.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and save the lives of 100 children, and you may also request the 50th anniversary commemorative bronze, Brotherly Love.

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I want you to remember that we are sending A Good Word for a Great Day; these are 365 daily devotionals. You're going to love that. Sometimes you're busy and in a hurry and Betty, so often the various devotional books that we've given away have been such a blessing to us.

Then The Family Reading Bible; now we offer a lot of Bibles. You say, "Y'all must like the Bible." Well, I hope everybody loves the Bible. This one is unique in the sense that it's one you can read to your children and with your children and your grandchildren. It's really set up for the family to grow. It's very, very important. We always try to give you something special because you're always providing the most special gift and that's life and love.

Join Betty and me in saying thanks to Daniel Kolenda. You'll want to get the book, *Live Before You Die*.

Daniel, we appreciate you, man! You've got God's touch on you. His anointing is on you. I just pray God's blessings on you.

Thank all of you so much!

Thanks for your help!