

8/19/14
Week 34 WFL: Last week
Kelly Minter

James: It is such a privilege to talk to all of you -- and to talk to you. I wish you were here in the studio with us. Come join us on a taping. Call our office and say, "When are you taping, who with? And we'd like to be with you."

I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm looking here at an interesting scene and it is a very -- it is a title that intrigues me because I'm fascinated by the power of a river. As a matter of fact, I want to release a stream of living water, transforming truth all over the world; beginning right here in America where we have such great need.

Wherever the River Runs -- and this is an interesting story: "How a forgotten people renewed my hope in the gospel" -- the writer, "a forgotten people." It has something to do with a river. It is written by Kelly Minter. She is a gifted musician, wonderful Bible teacher. I'm anxious so find out what this river did. Would you welcome Kelly Minter to *LIFE Today*?

Kelly, glad to have you.

Kelly: Thank you.

James: You and I have had a little conversation while we were visiting to know that I'm very much impressed with the power of a river to bring forth life. And this one brought forth life because this is the Amazon; am I right?

Kelly: Yes!

James: I want to know how did it do it because there is a lot of challenges associated with the Amazon and there's a lot of remote areas and difficult to get to and their people, beginning when Elizabeth Elliott tell us about it, but we know that it's tough. And this is the river you're talking about?

Kelly: That's the river and that's part of the boat that I've been on numerous times,

sleeping in a hammock in that boat right there.

James: Tell me about it.

Kelly: It's just absolutely amazing how spread out and how vast the Amazon, I believe it's something like 2,000 miles long. It's just 250 miles wide, I believe at its widest point. It's just amazing. Their people -- there are people that live all along the Amazon. I asked this one jungle pastor one day, I said, "Here your village floods every single year. Every year the waters come up and it covers your village. Why do you stay? Why do you stay there?"

His eyes just welled up and he said, "Because there are lives there -- because there are lives there."

Wherever the river runs, it is the gospel going as far as to the ends of the earth, and I think sometimes when I'm in the jungle and I'm on that boat and it's in the middle of the night and I'm floating on the Amazon, I'm like this is the end of the earth! This has got to be! This is the original middle of nowhere.

But there are people there and there are people whose lives are being changed by Jesus Christ in ways that I have never experienced in my own Christian -- kind of had the Lord just kind of boxed in nicely and love the Word of God and so blessed but being there and seeing some of these people living out Christianity in a way that I'd never seen has really changed me.

James: How did you even come to go there? I'm curious, why did you ever end up going to this middle of nowhere?

Kelly: I'm trying to figure that out myself.

James: You could have gone shopping, you know? Somebody would go shopping with you.

Kelly: Somebody would. I wouldn't need a hammock or a boat to do it. But actually, that's such an interesting question because it's not what I would have ever chosen, it's not what I would have picked. I had my sights in my 20s on this big music career. I signed a record deal, moved to Nashville, Tennessee and I was going to be famous and rich for Jesus.

[Laughter]

I don't know if anybody else ever wanted to do that. I was so excited. And the Lord spent a good seven years just humbling me. I wasn't famous, I wasn't rich, I wasn't having any influence. And just a lot of broken dreams in the music business and such a painful time for me, among many other things that were going on in my life that were very difficult, very hard. As a result, I ended up meeting this man in the music business that had a real heart for the Amazon. And I signed a record deal with that company and I thought, okay, here I am. They've got some of the biggest worship leaders on the globe, signed a record deal and didn't realize that the Lord was just tricking me to get me down to the middle of nowhere.

[Laughter]

It had nothing to do with my career in music. What's so amazing is that man, John Paculabo, behind some of the greatest, truly greatest worship songs of our day like in Christ Alone and Blessed Be Your Name and Here I Am to Worship, he passed away 14 months ago of cancer and essentially handed the ministry over to a group of dear friends. And now all of the sudden here I am going to the Amazon jungle and I realize, this really wasn't about me and my big venture and plan.

And yet, the beauty is that the Lord has so delighted my heart in the process. And I have sung, I was telling you earlier, I got to sing to a woman that was my age in a hut and I'm telling you, in the middle, truly of nowhere. A little village called Jarake. This woman has been hanging from a hammock her entire life. She was born with cerebral palsy. And I walked in and they asked if I could sing a song for her; a believer in Jesus, no speech but huge smile; has heard the gospel, understands. And I started singing and I just lost it; I was weeping as hard as I've wept. One of my friends looked at me and was like, "We're actually here to encourage -- bring the joy -- the life."

[Laughter]

But there was so much wrapped up in those tears. What a humbling opportunity to be there.

James: Could you see in her demeanor or countenance a peace that amazed you?

Kelly: I mean she would smile so big and just rotten, gnarled teeth; hands turned in but the biggest smile, loves us being there. And I realized here I was in my own flesh and ambition trying to go after this big career that I thought mattered and was going

to make me happy. And it was like in that moment the Lord is like, "This is where the fulfillment is when you're just walking in my will and in my way." I just never would have thought I would find such joy there -- and heartache and heartbreak. But also people encouraging me in my faith in ways that I could never have imagined.

James: You were moved, I can imagine by the love of the missionaries for all these different people in these remote places. Like you said, the pastor wouldn't leave no matter how difficult the challenges. When you were talking about singing to that girl, I just really feel inclined to look at all of you who are -- you're looking in on this scene and I think you say, "Well, that's really good."

But I think maybe you would ask what I ask sometimes, "Lord, you can heal people. Make her move." And he can, and you know he does. I've actually seen him take crippled limbs and I actually saw him heal a person that was totally paralyzed. They actually got up and walked with tremendous atrophy because they had no real muscle structure but they had been paralyzed 20 years and they walked. I saw that and I've seen blind eyes open and yet, I will ask the Lord, "Why don't you do it all the time? I don't understand."

Here's what I've learned because I know if I'd been there I'd gone over and blessed her and prayed for her, and asked, "Lord, can you get this lady out of this hammock?"

By the way, see, if we go ahead and do that because it is when I just said, "Well, I'll go for it." I saw somebody who couldn't talk start talking perfectly. It amazed them, amazed me. I've seen things happen like tumors go away. What I learned is, just go ahead and do it. And by the way, if you don't have like a healing reputation, it's even more effective.

[Laughter]

He just loves to show up where nobody expects it. And by the way, when they do get well, don't go buy a tent. Say "I've got a healing ministry going now." No, just praise God and just show everybody. But here's the thing, Kelly, that's so important for people to realize is that God hasn't failed if they don't get up. Because a lot of times people who can't get up have got more get up in them than we do who are standing up because the glory is in them.

Kelly: Paul says that our sufferings here are not to be compared with the glory that we're going to have. I think that was part of my tears was that I realized that this is so tragic and so difficult but the glory -- this is a flash, this is a vapor. And he says, "As

hard as it is here is not even going to be able to be compared to what we will have in eternity."

And it reminds me too -- and I agree, these people have taught me so much about healing prayer and miracles and we need to do it and we need to go after it, but the soul of these people, that's what they want more than anything. They want the freedom and the peace of Jesus.

I remember there was this one -- we stopped in a school that the water was coming up and it was just about to get into the school. And see, unfortunately, when the water comes up, so do the caiman, which is their crocodile, so do the anaconda. They're looking for dry spaces. So a lot of these people sleep with their machetes in their hands. It is very tragic when the water comes up.

But I was singing in a school and all the kids were so happy because they were young and they're just used to it. They're used to the water and the caiman but there was this one 12-year-old boy and he was so somber and so solemn. I really believe the Holy Spirit just pointed him out to me and told me in my heart as I was leading, here's a leader -- here's a leader. But I couldn't figure out why he was so upset or what was going on.

And I grabbed him afterward and grabbed my interpreter over, (this wonderful woman that translates for us.) I started asking him questions and he said, "Yeah. The water is about to come into my house. I'm the second oldest of 10; my oldest brother is gone, my dad is gone, and all the responsibility falls to me." And he's 12 years old.

So immediately I go into that American mindset, how can I fix this? We can build you a new house. We can jack the house up. We've got construction guys here. We can get you food. We can get you a canoe. I'm thinking of all my things. And after all, and he's kind of nodding like okay, okay.

Then I say to him, "I wanted to let you know that when I was singing the Lord pointed you out to me and I just think you're supposed to be a leader." And I started asking him about if he was involved in the church and his faith and all that. And after we were done, he didn't care about the money, the house, the clothes.

He said, "No one has ever seen me before. God has sent you to see me." And I thought, that's what the world wants. You all were talking earlier about how no matter whether we go to China or the Amazon or across the street, that we will see everybody as made

in the image of God and someone who needs a savior. That's what people are crying out for. I thought he wanted all of our stuff.

And he was like, "Okay, the stuff maybe." And that's all helpful and we need to be sacrificing, we need to be giving, but what we want is God to see us.

It made me think of Hagar in the desert and the angel coming. And Hagar saying, "Lord, you're the God who sees." I think that's what the Amazon has helped me do is be back here in the states and see -- and see who is the Lord sending me to -- wherever that river runs.

Betty: I think as I listened to your story, what is so beautiful to me, first of all, is just to see how you just -- the glow about your life. How you're so excited. Who would be excited about going to the Amazon? You know?

[Laughter]

Kelly: Come on, Betty, I can get you excited about it!

Betty: But it is because God -- you're in his will. You're where he wants you to be. And you feel safe because it is dangerous, just from the little you've described, it's very dangerous. But you have peace there in the midst of all that because you're where he wants you to be. That's a big difference -- if we can find in our own lives what it is God has put us here for and where he wants us to be, it makes all the difference in the world.

Kelly: Isn't it funny that I have so much more peace when I'm right in the middle of the Lord's will, even if there happens to be like some crocodile around --

James: That's better than a lot of churches.

[Laughter]

Kelly: Hey now! I did not say that. He said that.

James: I'm telling you, churches can be pretty scary.

Kelly: You'll sleep with machetes; right? But no, I fought his will for so much. I had an agenda; relationships that I wanted that the Lord said "no" to, platforms that I wanted that he said "no" to. And not that the Lord is the Lord of "no," he is the Lord of

"yes" too but it was -- it was him guiding me and it finally came to that place of many places of points of surrender and obedience and saying, "Lord, I'll do whatever you want me to do, I'll go wherever you want me to go." Then he delights you. He really does. I'm just as surprised as you are. That was just never on my agenda. I promise you, the Amazon was never on my agenda. Having the Third Annual Jungle Pastors Conference last year was never on my agenda. The First Annual Jungle Pastors Conference was not on my agenda and yet, probably best week of my life every year -- best week of the year.

James: Let me ask y'all, do you see the joy of the Lord in Kelly's face? I found myself watching her smile sometimes and I just wanted to do a freeze frame because it is the joy of the Lord. It's truly the joy of the Lord. I felt really impressed, Kelly and by the way, I wish you'd get the book. Just get it. It tells these stories and the glory of God, the joy of the Lord is on her and read them. What's your web site? If people want to know where you're going to be singing, where you're going to be teaching, what kind of material you've got, where would they go?

Kelly: It's just KellyMinter.com. So just my name.

James: Then this group that does this mission outreach down there. If you say, "Hey, we might want to go down there with the crocodiles." But if you want to know about this ministry, you say, "Could we help them in some way?" What is the name of the ministry?

Kelly: JusticeAndMercyInternational.org.

James: And that would be the web site. All right, if you're impressed in any way, you go to that web site and you help them. I felt really impressed a while ago while you were talking about what you said to that boy that I want to say it -- I want to say it to everybody out here.

I want to say it to every one of you, you really need to hear God telling you how important you are to his kingdom purpose, and how important your life is, how special you are, how uniquely you've been created and he wants to do something through your life that you can't even imagine.

Now here's the thing I think God really wants you to hear. He wants you to know that in Christ and Christ in you, he is fully pleased. He loves you. He wants to love others through you. He wants there to be a river flowing through you -- a river of life and love. If you would just, right where you are, say, "God, I believe you've chosen me.

You gave your son for me. I want you to come into my life. I want to be different. I want to be changed by your power." Would you just tell him that?

And then would you dial that number? And call us. I want to send you a book that is really about your new life that you have in Christ, Knowing God as Father. It is a simple Bible study. It tells a little bit of my story but it gets you in the word. Say, "I want that because I believe God touched me." You're so special to him. He loves you. Would you do that?

Kelly, I want to say thank you. I want to remind everybody watching, this book is available. Would you join Betty and me again in telling Kelly thank you? Thank you for being a witness. Thank you for your wonderful talent.

And Kelly, we've got something here that we're going to give everybody that would like to have it, Children at the Well. This is one of those really beautiful little books and you can feel the little fur. It is like a fur on a cow. It's a touchy-feely book. It inspires people to love. I want to send this to you.

Then this incredible book, Women at the Well: 32 refreshing devotions. Our daughter, Robin, that is with the Lord in heaven, she wrote "The Greatest Job in All the World," and she wrote about being a mother and a wife. It's powerful!

Beth Moore is in here; so is Lisa Bevere, many that you love. We want to send these things to bless you.

But here's what I want to ask you to do. Join me and Betty because we give a well every time we have the opportunity. Would you help us finish drilling another 500 wells? Would you do it? And we need 68 in Angola where they've just had an awful drought and we've got a matching grant that if you'll help us right now, any gift you give toward those wells there, it will be matched.

And this is our last week; we need your help. I want you to watch closely and see if you don't want to meet the need that's addressed right here. Watch it closely and prayerfully.

On the mission field

>> There are certain stories which must be told and must be told because something must be done; scenes which scream for intervention. The desperation that Angola's drought has created for Domingas is one of them. But desperation is not a word which

can adequately describe her circumstances. In fact, you're finding that no words can. We cannot sufficiently describe the need of Domingas' small family. We simply must show you.

You may not fully understand the nature or effects of waterborne diseases but you probably understand that these children will not survive much longer with this as their only water. Something must be done.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You know as I watch that I find myself saying immediately, I'll tell you one thing, there's going to be a well there. You tell those little kids, "Got you a well." As I was thinking that, I kind of felt a check in my heart. No, there's somebody watching somewhere right now, give them a well. I want you to have that sense, all right, they got a well. So say it and mean it and do it and call and say, "I'm paying for the well."

But here's the thing, Betty, that's a picture of hundreds of places where we've got that same image over and over and over hundreds of times a day and we want to give them a well too. So I'm asking everybody watching to help us complete the 500 wells, and the 68 we've targeted for Angola where they are just devastated. And we've got a matching gift, a challenge gift to match what you give to help us with those 68 wells.

Betty, I'm believing that everybody out here watching would say and feel what I felt, "Okay, I want to do that." And if they can't give the well, they'll at least give part of it or give the \$48 to give 10 people or \$144 to give 30. I just believe that everybody has that feeling that I had as I looked at the little cups, that filthy water, and said, "I want to correct it."

Betty: You see these precious children and you say, "I want to give a well so they can have water." Like James says, that's just one place that needs a well because without the clean water, many more children like these little ones that are so precious in the sight of God, they're going to die too if we don't get the fresh water to them. They'll keep going back to the only source they have. Well, let's give them a choice. Let's give them another source of living water. Please join with us.

James: What I'm going to ask you to do is just go to the phone; many people who called in and they have trusted in Christ. They are saying, "Pray with me." I've told

you this many times, it's not an exaggeration, if we had 200 people call and say, "I'm going to help you with a well," we'll have 2,000 call to get help. That's a typical day; 80% of our calls are people calling to either give their life to God, get right with God, pray, or "we need help." Then some will call to say, "We can help" -- praise God -- because we want to help you.

I'm asking you right now if you'll do this. Just get a bankcard; I pray you'll do it. I wish you'd feel like I want to run to do it. Get your bankcard, dial that number, write it down, call until you get through in case people are calling to give their life to Christ or saying, "I want to help too." But call and make the largest gift you can.

If you can give a well, please do. If you can give part of a well, do it. Whatever you can give, \$48, \$144, that's huge! If you want to go online LifeToday.org you can go there and make the gift. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but please call us and tell us what you're sending in. We have to know so we can tell the missionaries, those who are drilling the wells, "Yes, we can cover that area." Thank you for making it! It is a wonderful life-giving call and this is the last week. We have some gifts for you but you are giving the gift of life. In love, you're doing it and I thank you for it. I pray every one of you watching will do what God's put on your heart.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children of all ages are forced to make a dreadful choice: Drink filthy polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision!

The good news is there is a solution. *Mission: Water for Life* is one of the most effective life-saving demonstrations of God's love you could ever be a part of. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today, you can help establish and drill 500 new water wells for remote villages impacting over 20 nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people. \$72 will impact 15 people! And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift, be sure to request the new *Children at the Well* interactive book to help your little ones understand the blessing of clean water, as well as the *Women at the Well*

daily devotional with 32 refreshing devotionals for your quiet time. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request this beautiful leather journal to help capture your personal times with God.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and you may request our commemorative sculpture glass statue "The Blessing."

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!
End of clip

On the mission field

James: This mother has four children. Last summer a year ago, they had an outbreak of intestinal disease from contaminated water. Two of her children got very, very sick.

Now she's got a little baby just a few months old and this baby is living on her mother's milk, this baby is nursing. Betty, pretty soon this little baby is going to be drinking that water and oftentimes it takes their lives.

Betty: It really does, James. And they can't do anything about it because it's all the water they have. I can't even imagine! This little baby is so precious, so beautiful! Do you know that there is 10,000 people a day that die from the waterborne diseases, and most of them are children five and under? We can stop that. We can make the difference by doing the water wells and giving them a fresh cup of water.

James: I'd like you to be one of the hands to reach out and dial the telephone number and take your bankcard and use it like a check or write a check and make it to *LIFE* and say "I want to give life to children like this and keep them healthy."

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I join together saying thanks in behalf of the missionaries and all the families and children you'll help because I'm believing we're going to get those wells.

Kelly Minter, what a blessing she is! Would you like to tell her a great big thank you again?

Thank you, Kelly, for your radiance, for your joy.

Get the story! And there's her web site again. Check it out. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity.