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George Dennehy

James: I think sometimes people have trouble believing in miracles. Well, you're going to see one. I'm James Robison; Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

Now we're going to try to track back in our minds to when we went to Romania. Interestingly, we started doing the missions years ago but one of the things that moved me was the revolution in Romania that was a result of prayer. I actually stood in a battle conference, I think there were probably 13,000 people there and I announced that God just moved on my heart in a very special way.

We ended up in Romania and we were actually there rescuing children and getting kids out of the sewers and giving them homes and building orphanages. We took in hundreds of thousands of syringes to stop the AIDS outbreak where they were using the same needles over and over for those kids.

Well, we've got a Romanian child that was born without arms, which was not a good thing in Romania because that basically meant, for many, that meant you were not necessarily a throwaway but a giveaway. And this incredible young man found his way into an adoptive home here in America where they've adopted a lot of kids -- remarkable family!

And without arms he can play the guitar, other musical instruments and he sings! And he's here and he's with us. Would you welcome George Dennehy to *LIFE Today*? George, I can't shake your hand. I know I can shake your foot. We actually have been out to have a meal with George and he eats with his feet. For moms, "Get your feet off the table!" There is no way he's going to do that. But it's a remarkable story. George, we're glad to have you.

George: Thank you for having me.

James: It's an honor. Tell us your journey that you recall and tell me what happened. Did you realize that you were, in a way, maybe rejected in Romania? You were there after the revolution and things had gotten a little bit better but for you it wasn't looking good.

George: I was born right after the revolution happened and Romania was all over the place and there was no stability. Like you said, being born, I say with a "deformity," it is looked upon as a curse -- as a curse by God. So basically, when my parents took me home from the hospital to their village all the other villagers, they saw me and they saw this new baby born and they were disgusted -- absolutely disgusted because there's this curse in the village now. And my parents were so heartbroken by that and so hurt by the fact that their son would be seen as an outcast all of his life if he were to stay in this country. So they had to decide to put me in an orphanage, just praying and hoping that there's got to be something better out there for me, there has to be. By the grace of God, there was.

I was adopted when I was one and a half years old. I was adopted through Bethany Christian services. On the picture, in the description, it said I was going to die pretty soon because I was in such horrible care. At one and a half years old I weighed nine pounds -- almost dead.

James: So you came here though and what are your parent's names?

George: Mike and Sharon Dennehy.

James: And they have other children?

George: There are 12 children total in my family -- nine adopted and three biological. My parents joke around when they say biological kids -- they call them "homemade cookies" and then "store bought," the adopted.

[Laughter]

James: They are a wonderful couple! And several of the children have challenges; right? Physical challenges?

George: Yes. Several of the children, us have special needs. One of my brothers also has no arms and my sister has no arms or legs and my sister Charisse has a hand that's kind of deformed from birth, from being -- she was born in China.

James: Age range of these children now? What's the ages?

George: Now it's 10-27.

James: I want to say to this couple because I know you're watching, you've got to -- I want to get some pictures but you've got to look as much like Jesus as people can look. I just want to say to you that just knowing about you inspires me. You have -- and I know you know it, it is something God did in your heart -- but I want to thank you for releasing God in a way that few people have ever seen him and knowing him in a way that few people know him. And I just thank you for loving these children. And all you children, you're all so special. You see he did not overlook -- God did not overlook you.

Tell us what's happened to you now since you've been here. About coming to know the Lord because you actually -- you were picked on. Tell us what that did and then what happened to you from a spiritual point of view.

George: Well, being born without arms and growing up without arms, it was never easy. For the most part it was really, really hard. I went to a lot of mostly public school; so going through elementary school and then middle school mainly was a time when I started realizing that man, I'm actually really different. I'm different from other kids and kids kind of leave me out of things and I get picked on and I get bullied. I'm never picked for any teams in gym or recess. And girls don't want to go out on dates with

me because I can't hold their hand with my hand and they get uncomfortable. That really affected me as a kid and as a person.

Just after about a year of that it brought me to a really low point in my life, just rock bottom, I guess you could say where I was in complete doubt of the fact that I was born for any kind of reason or for any kind of purpose because how could a loving God forget to put arms on me? And how can my parents say God loves me just as much as anybody else but he left out the arms? I didn't understand that.

I grew up in a Christian home but I never really connected with God and really understood who he really is. I just always heard it; it was always just like hearing it. So I was really vulnerable of the enemy's attacks of him telling me that I wasn't worth it, and I was never going to amount to be anything. It brought me to a point of depression and anger and almost suicide.

James: People actually say the things the enemy wants you to hear and they actually verbalize them. Kids can do that. Its unbelievable how powerful words are and how we don't seem to realize it. But they were dumping on you at school, the enemy was telling you those same things and they're basically verbalizing what the enemy is putting in your mind. What happened because obviously, something has happened to you because I can see it in your countenance, I know your spirit, I know what you're doing, what happened?

George: Yeah, well, after about a year and a half of that, just in complete darkness and complete blindness to everything, that's when the Lord just completely changed my life and I don't know how to explain it, how he does it. He just surprises you. I remember being at church specifically and I didn't want to be there, I just had to be there because my parents are making me. It happens!

James: And you didn't have any arms to fight back.

George: That's right! I was actually drawing on the bulletin just like coloring or whatever.

[Laughter]

But then our pastor, he said that we were going to read from John chapter nine. I don't know why but for some reason when he said that I just started looking at my dad's Bible next to me, just kind of reading along for some reason. John chapter nine basically is the part in the Bible where Jesus and his disciples are walking down the path and the disciples see the blind man on the side of the road. And they ask Jesus, "Jesus, whose fault is this that this man was born blind?" Like who sinned? It's got to be somebody's fault. Like there's no way that he could be born blind on purpose.

Jesus kind of shook his head a little bit, kind of like, "You guys don't understand." Then he said, "It was nobody's fault that this man was born blind. It was so that the works of God could be seen mightily through him." Basically saying, despite his circumstance, despite what he's going through and what he's facing, God's working in and through him in a big way and a bigger way. I really related to that because I just replaced born blind with born without arms.

That's when God told me the truth of who he is. He told me that... he was like, "George, you're not an accident. You're not some molecular biological accident that randomly has no arms. I created you for a reason because you have a purpose." That's when my whole vision of life and who God is completely flipped around and in a matter of seconds. It was crazy.

James: You became a new person!

George: Yeah!

James: Born from above. And Jesus says everybody has to be.

George: Adopted twice.

James: Isn't that great? Now he's given you a talent. Believe it or not, he can play a guitar and he can sing. Would you like to hear him sing and see how he can play his

guitar?

[Applause]

[George sings and plays guitar with his feet]

Winter comes and brings the cold
We are human we grow old
Life is filled with so much pain
Darkened skies that cry down rain
A broken heart takes time to heal
You never know what you feel
Love can save or take you down
At least that's what I have found
But I, I, I, I
I know it's worth it
I know it's worth it
And I, I, I, I
I fight on through it
I'll fight on through it
Yeah
I saw a man out on the street

Desperate for something to eat
There's so much darkness all around
There's so much hurt and broken souls
Yeah
It's strange how you can be well-known
But at the same time feel alone
You seem to find who truly cares
But those in love are always there
Oh, I, I, I, I
I know it's worth it
I know it's worth it

Oh, I, I, I, I
I fight on through it
I'll fight on through it
And I, I, I, I
I know it's worth it
I know it's worth it
Yeah

James: That's so good! We took a little break to get George back over here. Here is the CD; seven songs. I want you to know it's remarkable. I want to -- could we give our viewers one of these CD's if we bought them from you all and gave them to the people who help us drill water wells today? Could we do that? You have some. This isn't the only one. We can get some?

George: I have a couple others.

James: Well, I want to believe they're going to be many people who will say, "We'll help you drill water wells." And we want to send you this. Let me ask you, do you have a web site if our viewers said, "We'd love for you to come to our church or come do something with us." How would they find you?

George: For the past year I've been blessed to be able to do speaking and music full-time, going to different churches and schools and just sharing my story and sharing what God's done. I do have a web site and it is just GeorgeDennehy.com. It's on Facebook and Twitter and all that stuff.

James: Okay. If they ask you to come, do they give you a love offering or what if you go? Do you have a fee if you go, normally?

George: Usually there is a fee for traveling because I do this full-time and also my wife too.

James: She goes with you, right? Does she sing too?

George: She does! Yeah, we do songs together sometimes at churches.

James: And pretty soon there will be a little one going. So we need to raise the fee a little bit.

[Laughter]

Here's the thing I want you to understand that if there's a fee, I know it would be reasonable. But do this, if you have him come and you can do above and beyond that, do it. You'll never regret it. Bless people like this who are such a blessing.

Betty, we used to do everything by love offerings. When we went to a couple of churches and they said, "Well, we don't have a love offering. We thought they'd take care of you down the road." And I said one time, "I thought this was down the road." You know what really happened to us? People gave such great offerings that we realized they were too big to keep, and we started trying to find a way to divide and begin new things, which ultimately led us into being able to help people all over the world because you're so sweet. I'm saying, be loving to him. But there's the web site.

Your story is just great. Your wife is precious and I know this baby is going to be special. You know you pray for us, George, because we do have orphanages in Romania. We still help children.

I talked to a wonderful pastor the other day in San Antonio, Pastor Flowers. He told me he stayed in one of the orphanages when they were over there working in Romania. He got to stay in one of the *LIFE* Centers and what a blessing it was. So you're going to be a continual flow.

Betty, when you listen to somebody, knowing that you and I were in Romania, really while the revolution was still going on, and then we've continued to work there, when you hear a story like this and see, what goes on?

Betty: Well, a beautiful testimony because you are complete in Christ. He's made you just like he wanted you to be because you are such a blessing to everyone that comes in contact with you. And you are a ministry of the Lord and he's going to mightily use you in the future to bless others.

James: How old are you now, George?

George: I'm 20.

James: Man, you got married about the same age Betty and I got married. I'm just proud of you! And I'm proud of your brothers and sisters and family and this couple.

I want you to know we consider it a high honor to have had you here with us. I want everybody to look at that web site and pray for you. I want you to give him an opportunity to come and bless you. I just want to say to every one of you who feel overlooked like he did -- I did, I felt that way. I know many of you do.

I don't know what I can say or do without being there where I could kind of reach out and really get your attention. But I just want you to know how much God thinks of you -- and how much he loves you -- and how he wants you to experience that love. And if you'd just get this, begin to express it. There's so many people who feel the way you feel -- or maybe more overlooked. And they try fill the emptiness with all the wrong things; sometimes even with religion that doesn't have the life of God. So don't miss the God that moved this couple to help children like George and others. Don't miss that love. Experience it and then begin to express it.

If you want someone to pray with you, the phone number there is a prayer line. I just checked yesterday, 2,100 people called. Isn't that amazing? A few of them called to help some people. Nearly all of them called because they said, "We want God. We want somebody to care and pray with us." We'll be glad to do it. George, we're going to drill water wells. We've been doing it for years now, and we're drilling 500 this year. I want to show you something that will move you. But please do this, whatever you

do, do not look away. Look in on the scene where you can release the life and love of God in an undeniable way that will just keep flowing and giving life. Watch closely.

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: And we know what must be done and what can be done.

Betty, when you see that beautiful little girl and even younger little girl kneeling down there at the last, when you see them get that water, what goes on in your heart?

Betty: Well, it breaks my heart. I want to say, "No, no, honey! Don't do that! It's not good for you." But when that's the only source they have, that's the only place they have to go to get a drink of water, and they get thirsty, they have to have water. It just breaks my heart because I know they don't know what it's doing to their little bodies. But they will drink it until we offer them something else. And that something else is fresh clean water that we get from drilling the wells in their areas to help them.

Let's give them a choice. I'll just want to be sure, and I know you would be sure too, they're going to go for the clean water. They're going to see the purity of it and want that water. So please help us!

James: Well, these children and their families, you know they've never even seen a well. But when they see the water come out of the ground or they see the functioning mechanically operated well in their area it's like a party -- it's like a celebration. They know what it means.

Father, I pray everyone will literally get up and go online right now or go get their bankcard or their checkbook and say, "I'm going to write the check; I'm going to make the gift that you put on my heart knowing it's going to be matched." In Jesus' name.

This is a very special opportunity. We're targeting 500 wells. Now we have some gifts for you because we want to bless you but you are literally transforming a community by expressing love when you give more than just a cup of water in Jesus' name, you're helping give a well of water and we're going to tell them about the well of life, the water of life. We're going to show them that love and I'm convinced they're going to receive it.

Thank you for going to the phone, thank you for going online. If you write a check call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail or call us and tell us what you want on that bankcard you use like a check. Thank you so much for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day millions of children 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 exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today we can establish and drill 500 water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for 5 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 you'll receive the brand-new *Free to Be Me* 40-day devotional where Betty shares the challenges, victories, and insights God gave her while struggling through fear and insecurity. You'll also receive Betty's book, *Free to Be Me*. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request *LIFE's* inspirational coffee mug set featuring encouraging quotes and scripture to brighten your mornings for years to come!

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the Mission Field:

Tammy: This is absolutely horrible to think that this is his only source of water. I've been sitting here for a while watching dogs and pigs and goats sitting in this water. The smell is just enough to take your breath away, yet I watched child after child dip their precious little cup and drink this water. It's literally killing them but they have nothing else that they can do. This is it! We can change this for them. We can drill them a water well that will last for generations to come and produce life into their bodies. Call the number on your screen or go online and give the best gift that you can give. It will make a difference that will bring life into the lives of these children.

In the studio

James: I want to remind you as we say thank you for your help, we'll send you George's CD if you'd like to have it if you'll just help us give a cup of water or a well of water and be a blessing. I wanted to let you know that.

Again, there's his web site if you'd like him to come. And bless him when he comes, and his wife.

Thank all of you for being here. Would you join us in saying thanks to George?

Bless you, buddy! I know you want to give me a foot shake again, and just say thank you. You're amazing and God is great.

And we want to thank you for helping us love so many people that feel overlooked.
Thanks for your time.