

1/27/15
Week 5 WFL
Megan Boudreaux

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

James: And this is the happiest and most pleasant looking people out here.

Are you happy and pleasant? Do you know what people tell me when they run into us like in a public place? "I'm so glad you can't see me when I'm watching you on television!" Then they tell us, "We just feel like you're in our home every day!"

Well, thank you. We're glad you're here. And you are going to really like the young lady we're about to introduce you to. I want to show you the title of her book because she has a book. Everybody that's got a book wants to come and be on *LIFE Today*; and I'm glad because people who understand good things like to hear about good things. The miracle -- and I mean this is not an exaggeration, *Miracle on Voodoo Mountain*. Now this is in Haiti. Would you welcome Megan to *LIFE Today*?

Megan, I'm glad to see you. And the first time I saw you, you were walking in the miracle, you were walking in Haiti and you were helping people. It was the last place in the world you would have ever thought you would be. I want you to tell our viewers about your journey. It's here and it is thoroughly covered.

And I hope you'll get the book; it is wonderful!

I want you to tell a little bit about your situation; how unlikely it would be that you would ever end up where you are, and then the absolute undeniable miracle of what's taken place. Let's just start with where you were and what was going on in your life.

Megan: Sure! I was born in Louisiana; when I was seven my father passed away. Kind of my whole -- it is so interesting because my whole life I just had so many different things going on and had no idea that I'd end up in Haiti. I was a cheerleader in college and just very different stuff. The Lord kind of put this on my heart to go to Haiti. Through my job and through different places visiting I ended up coming to Haiti to Voodoo Mountain.

James: Well, what was happening? What happened with the death that occurred in your family when you realized how very much alone you felt?

Megan: That was a really interesting and tough time. Even though I was only seven, I remember a lot about it. I was going to my father's funeral and my mom and my father had been divorced. He was an alcoholic and so because of just her trying to keep us safe and keep us away from his family and from him a little bit because of just the disease itself, she was not invited to the funeral.

So at seven years old I walked into the funeral home with my brother and my sister who are a few years older than me and was by myself. And walked in and they kept going and I kind of got trapped at this bench at the beginning of the funeral home. And I sat on there, that bench, for what seemed like hours and had my head tucked in-between my legs and was just crying and so upset, and felt like nobody was comforting me. And a few people came up and they put their arm on my back or they would say stuff and no one was really trying to make me feel any better. They weren't really picking me up or talking with me, they were just patting my back.

Then suddenly, I felt the bench shake and I looked over; I lifted my head up and I looked over and I didn't see anybody. So I put my head back down, and then suddenly I felt like somebody picked me up and was just holding me. The voice in my spirit was just saying, "You're not alone! You're not alone."

That, I felt like was the first time I heard God talking to me and I was seven. Since then that whole spirit, that whole phrase of "you're not alone" has just followed me all the way to living in Haiti for six months by myself.

James: Tell us how you got there. Now Katrina hit. You were in school; right? And it kind of knocked your school out?

Megan: Yeah! I was at Tulane University and I missed the first day of class because of Katrina, and so ended up having to go to Washington and Lee University in Virginia. And picked that on a whim; we had 24 hours to pick a school. I was a sophomore; I didn't know what to do. So I picked that school and got dropped off in the middle of campus by myself with my luggage and thought, okay, Lord, what am I going to do?

So I started going, trying to figure out where I was going to stay. Got into my room and felt that same feeling, I'm alone, I'm alone. And I so clearly heard the Lord say, "You're not alone, I'm with you." Actually, in that university, that was the first time I

ever joined a Bible study, and that's really where I just learned about the Lord, about the Word of God and just became a Christian, really, and walked with the Lord from then on.

James: I'm interested in how you got to Haiti because when I watched you in Haiti, I saw something I was amazed at. How did you end up there? Because that probably had really nothing to do with Katrina but they did have an earthquake. So you went in after that, I suppose.

Megan: Right. I did! I went in after the earthquake. But actually, it was with a job that I was hired for before the earthquake. I worked in public relations and marketing for a children's hospital and they said, "Oh, we'd like for you to go to Haiti." Because I was the youngest one there, I kind of got forced to go. And I wasn't excited at all. I'd visited in April of 2010 and hated it. I cried the whole time. I thought, why did you send me? Lord, I don't want to be here. And I came back and kind of forgot about how bad it was.

And they asked me go to again and I said, "Okay, I'll go." So I went and then that's the first time that I went up to this mountain and I saw this one tree. And then went back to the states and did my job and stayed on my job and thought, I'm never going back. Why would I go back?

That's when the Lord started waking me up and every time I would wake up I would see this tree. I kept seeing this mountain.

James: Was it a tree that had leaves? A living tree? Because most trees are dead there. They cut them up and make firewood. But there is a tree, and so it kept coming back to you.

Megan: And it was the only tree on this mountain. It's the only tree on this mountain, on Bellevue Mountain, on Voodoo Mountain in Gressier. So I kept seeing the tree. Then finally, I ended my struggle and thought, okay, Lord, you win! I'm going to go.

James: Why was the tree there? I'm curious. Why was it there when they're cutting them down and burning them for wood all the time? Is there any reason for it?

Megan: No, I think -- I think one of the biggest reasons why that tree out of all of them stayed was because originally, it was there where they could do voodoo offerings and they would do sacrificing under that tree. In the religion of voodoo trees are sacred; they pick certain trees to worship and stuff and this was one was that had been --

James: An idol.

Megan: Yeah, an idol for that mountain.

Betty: Did God give you specific directions or leadership on what he wanted you to do when you got there?

Megan: No, not at all. He really said, "Go. I just want you to go." So I talk about it in the book just how I get there and the first three days I sat in my room and cried and thought, oh, my gosh, my mom's right. I'm crazy! What am I doing? My friends think I'm crazy.

James: This sounds like some journey everybody wants to go on. Everything just makes no sense. But you know what? I want to ask you something because see, I believe that the enemy will imitate God, he will sound like God, he'll come as an angel of light, he will masquerade as a minister of righteousness.

You seem to have -- and it sounds very much like God that he picked you up when you were a hurting little girl and nobody else was picking you up. I don't question for a moment God was picking up a little girl with a broken heart.

Then you talk about hearing these voices talking to you, and it wasn't like it was -- this voice trying to get you to do something evil or selfish. It might have seemed like something kind of silly or why are we doing it? But you believe it was God?

Megan: Oh, absolutely!

James: So then you believe that he for some reason let you keep seeing this tree that was an idol? That doesn't really make sense but he's making you see it and you end up on the mountain; right?

Megan: I did.

James: So here you are, up on the mountain, you don't have a clue why you're there?

Megan: Not a clue! Not a clue! So I was actually still in this house. I had moved to Haiti. I decided I'm going to move my stuff. I sold my car --

James: You didn't know why you were moving to Haiti?

Megan: No idea! Just knew that the Lord said, "You need to go." I said "no" for three or four months and finally I said, "All right, Lord. Let's see. You're really up to something." Because he was persistent.

James: He didn't let you in on any deal!

Megan: Nothing! Nothing! Nothing! So I got there. Three days I'm crying and then suddenly, I said, "Okay, maybe I need to go do something."

[Laughter]

So what God did was he led me back to this mountain and that's really where it all started. Because the first time I got back on this mountain I saw a little girl with a bunch of rocks in her hand. She was throwing rocks at a bird because she was hungry and she was going to eat the bird. So that little girl Michaelle, she started -- I always say she started this whole thing because from then we started a feeding program and then eventually the school.

James: Now what happened to the little girl?

Megan: Now she is my daughter. So yeah.

James: She was six then; right?

Megan: She was six then. Yep!

James: How old is she now?

Megan: She is ten now.

James: And she is your little girl.

Megan: And she is my little girl.

James: Now you got married right?

Megan: I did!

James: Under the tree?

Megan: Not under that tree but under another tree.

James: How long have you been married?

Megan: It will be two years.

James: Is your husband there too?

Megan: Yes, he is.

James: Does he have a clue why he is there?

Megan: At first I think it was for me but now he really knows.

James: The miracle! You've got to hear this. This is the thing that is so cool because you see, we saw the clips of her. It just can't happen what happened to this girl. I mean it makes no sense except that here's a girl that God held when she was a little girl, when she really needed to be held. Then she keeps hearing a voice, she doesn't totally understand it, but she just follows what she knows. And she ends up here and she sees a little girl trying to throw rocks at a bird to have something to eat; that little girl is her daughter.

Now what happened to the children as a result of you being there?

Megan: So after we started the feeding program I started seeing that there was a lot of kids that weren't going to school.

James: By the way, where did you get the food for them?

Megan: Where did I get the food? The local market there.

James: Did you have to buy it?

Megan: Yes!

James: Where did you get the money to buy it?

Megan: My own money.

[Laughing]

James: Like from back in the states when you had a job?

Megan: Yes.

James: But you're over here under the tree, nobody sent you.

Megan: Yep! It really doesn't connect until further along but at this point, yeah, I was using my own money.

James: I'm getting desperate -- I'm getting desperate!

Megan: You have to read the book.

[Laughter]

James: It's just come out, I've got the advanced copy!

Megan: But after that I started a feeding program and then started seeing these kids weren't going to school and that is when I kind of just discovered what these children were and they were restaveks. And it's a French word, *resta* that means *to stay*; *avek* means *with*. And it's basically child slaves or domestic servants; there's over half a million in Haiti. These children serve in the household; they're either given away, sold, kidnapped, stolen. It's such a difficult situation. And then they're young kids from ages 4 to 15, girls and boys, and they do all the cooking, the cleaning, laundry, fetching water and they don't go to school.

James: Do many of them have parents?

Megan: Some of them do. Some of them have parents and they've been taken away. Some of them have parents and they don't know where they are. And some of them are orphans and have just been stuck in this situation.

James: Now you're dealing with children whose language is different from yours. What did they speak?

Megan: Haitian Creole.

James: And you spoke Louisiana Cajun English.

[Laughter]

Now you needed to talk to them but you couldn't. Did you have something else strange happen? I need to know.

Megan: I did! I did!

James: What happened?

Megan: So... Like I said, God just continued to confirm that I should be there. And after being there for about six weeks I went back to the states and just had one prayer. I said, "Lord, if I'm supposed to say over there, I've got to be able to communicate with these people. This is too difficult." And the kids would come up and just speak so fast I couldn't understand anything.

So I went back to Haiti a few weeks later and decided to go back up to the mountain because I knew I would see Micha, the little girl who was throwing rocks, that's where she lived. And I went back up there expecting her to speak super fast Creole and she started speaking and I could understand everything she was saying. I thought, wait a second, are you speaking English? Or am I speaking... What is this?

So I asked her to repeat what she said. Then I understood what she was saying. So I ran down the mountain to go meet some of my friends, a Haitian pastor and his wife, and some other friends that were Haitian, and I started speaking to them. They said, "Did you go to a language school for two weeks? What did you do?"

I just said, "No! I don't know."

They stood up immediately and they knew. They said, "Praise God! Praise God!"

James: Do you understand this is a New Testament miracle in the book of Acts? That is exactly what happened. Now the whole story is a miracle on this mountain. So now you're talking to them. I want to know what happened for the kids that you're doing, a girl that wasn't sent there by anybody but God who couldn't possibly do it. Tell me what's happened.

Megan: So now with seeing all of these kids that weren't in school we started a school.

And it grew from January of 2011 with 97 kids to we just started in October of 2014, this new school year, we have about 500 children.

James: Isn't that great! Do you understand the miracle of that? That is a miracle! You've got kids she couldn't even talk to! And you're feeding them?

Megan: We're feeding them. They get two meals a day. We feed them breakfast and lunch. We source everything locally so we make our own bread, our own peanut butter. We get eggs locally. We've built 14 classrooms, and so they are all in their classrooms.

James: Who helped you build them?

Betty: Did somebody finally find out that you were there?

[Laughter]

Did somebody come looking for you?

Megan: After about five months alone I started having some friends. Yeah! We did have some people that came and helped. We actually had an American builder, Kyle Fishburn who came from California, and he moved down there for two years actually, and he built our 14 classrooms.

James: Thank you, Kyle!

Megan: Yeah! And then we just recently finished our medical clinic. So we have a 6500 square foot medical clinic that serves our staff of over 100 and our 500 kids and their families.

James: I want to tell you something. Now listen to me, and all of you here, this is a miracle. I knew when I was watching it, it makes no sense. It's just God. Now here's what I want you to see. If they want to know your web site because they say, "Hey, I can build. I'll come do a little bit more refurbishing or updating or adding on," how would they find you on a web site?

Megan: The name of my organization is called Respire Haiti. So the web site is RespireHaiti.org.

James: What does that mean?

Megan: Respire means to breathe.

James: All right. And they can find that. It's on the screen where you can see it. Now the thing you would probably like is for some people to come maybe and work with you when they can stay for a little extended period of time, maybe a matter of weeks? Let's say that churches want to maybe talk to you about a group coming? Is there any room or need for that?

Megan: Yes, absolutely! Our first and foremost biggest need is always prayer because as by the title, there is a lot of just battles and darkness that's there as well; so prayer is a huge thing. The second thing is to have feet on the ground. We have all kinds of opportunities. We have our soccer teams, we have a tennis team, we have basketball, we also have art, and music that we do.

James: People who are good in these sports and things that come work with kids, that's meaningful too. There's the web site. Let me just say to you, if you'd like to have her book, we are giving away Betty's book *Free to be Me* as well as a devotional, a 40-day devotional of just the things she's written, even while we went through the journey of losing our daughter. That's a journey that is very difficult to share; how the healing process -- it's a continual thing. And Betty is sharing that.

But we would be happy to send you the book that Megan has written, about the miracle. What we really have heard is New Testament power in our day with a girl that wasn't asking for this, had no thought of being a missionary. She hears a still small voice, she follows it, and then she beholds the miracle.

Now then, I would say to you, the web site's there if you want to help her, get involved with her, if you want to send support, find out what she is doing; you follow the leadership of the Lord. You may be led to go there. I want to tell you, the need is great in Haiti. Would you just say thanks to God and thanks to Megan?

[Applause]

Megan, I want to show you something that I know will touch your heart. Now listen to me. I'm going to show you something that leads to a miracle. I mean it leads to a miracle like you've been hearing about -- and in many, many ways indescribable. It leads to millions of lives being saved and millions of people coming to know Christ because they see firsthand his love. Now I want you to watch, whatever you do, don't look away and just listen to the voice of God that Megan heard. Watch!

On the mission field

Announcer: Is there anything more miraculous, more precious than God's gift of children? -- Remarkable and sometimes confusing little versions of ourselves. Yet so incredibly unique. We plan, sacrifice, stress, and pray over our decisions -- over their decisions, all that we want for them and the legacy we hope to leave. There is a breath of immortality in those generations that follow us. But that all assumes those generations don't end with us.

In Cambodia, what we encountered floored us. Mother after mother, who because of something as basic as water, had lost child after child. Contaminated water filled with disease, their only source.

Open captions:

>> I lost two children.

Announcer: In the villages we visited, it became harder to find mothers who had not lost a child to contaminated water than it was to find one who had.

Open captions:

>> I lost four children.

>> I lost five children.

Announcer: Our children are supposed to outlive us. These mothers have lost more children than the average American has even brought into this world.

Open captions:

>> I lost one child.

>> I lost three children.

>> I lost one child.

>> I lost five children.

>> I lost five children.

Announcer: Of all the things we, as parents, might struggle to provide for our children, it's unlikely that clean water is ever one of them. Why should it be any different for these mothers?

End of clip

In the studio

James: I feel like you've -- I feel like you've heard a still small voice. I think you've heard it clearly. Would you give clean water in Jesus' name? Betty, when I see the loss and I know that it can be immediately corrected by love, I can't even imagine every person watching not saying at least, "let me have a part."

Betty: James, I can't even imagine the heartache of a mother that knows that the water she's giving her babies could possibly kill them. But what can she do? They have to have water. They're thirsty. Day-by-day, every day, she goes and offers that water to her children knowing that she might lose one more child -- or more than that.

I hope you will join with us and let's drill the water wells because this is a solution that can save lives. If you will be a part of it, you will be so blessed as you give and share your heart of love with these children.

James: It is hard to imagine that anyone wouldn't have something as basic as clean water. Even here in the states people are buying a lot of water in bottles because they perceive that it might be a little bit more pure than even what is coming out of our tap, out of the faucet. We're almost fanatical for clean water. Nothing wrong with that but these children and their families have never had it. And you give them water because you have to have water to live a day, the next day, the next -- or die suddenly. But giving them the water, for many of them, they die slowly and painfully.

But we can correct it! So here's what we do it at *LIFE*, and when I say we, Betty and I give a well every time we drill, and to be honest with you, we normally give more

than a well because we ask God, we made it a major focus, show us how we can do it. We have found so many people who said, "We began to pray."

Do you realize that we have children -- we have children, some that are not even five or six years old that drill a well. You say, "How did they do it?" They started talking to everybody they knew. Some of them got permission to talk to their whole church and said, "Would you please help us drill a well?" And they would drill a well.

The point I'm making is that when it gets on your heart, when it really gets on your heart you can do it. So I want you, if you can drill a well, to drill a well. They're \$4800. Or if you could give a portion of a well, \$1200, three join you and we've got a well; \$2400, one person joins you and we've got a well. That's great! We pray you can do it. I pray you make it a goal.

But most people can't do that. And don't be apologetic. The majority of the resources to drill the well have come from gifts of \$48. That gives ten people, if you break it out, ten people water the rest of their life. Could you make a \$48 gift? -- \$144, three times that, 30 people.

We have gifts we want to send you to bless you. We're sending it to say thank you. You're not giving to get a gift. We're giving to you because we love you and want to bless you, give you the water of life; give them Water for Life, and tell them about the water of life -- show them first.

Would you dial the number right now? I think you want to. Almost feel like I wish you wanted to run to the phone. But you dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check or you can go online, LifeToday.org, use that card and make the gift now. If you do want to mail it in, make the check to *LIFE*. Make it to *LIFE* and then call us and tell us, "I'm sending this in" because we need to know.

We've targeted more than 12 countries, 500 wells; that's the goal this year. Do what you can; would you? Thank you for doing it. I don't want any more mothers to say, "I lost one." "I lost three." I want them to be able to say in a few years, "I didn't lose my babies! I didn't lose my children." And we're going to tell them about the love of God that prompted the gift you made and they will believe because they have seen it.

Thanks for making that call. Thanks for going online. Thanks for your gift.

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 studio

James: From the depth of our heart we just say thank you for your help. I believe -- and by the way, if you get a busy, be as determined as if the life of one of your loved ones depended on that 911 call being made, so to speak. This is a life call. Get through and do what God puts on your heart.

If you would like to have Megan's book, *The Miracle on Voodoo Mountain* -- it's not Voodoo Mountain anymore -- it is Miracle Mountain. I think we just ought to rename it Miracle Mountain. I think you should make an actual move and get that government, they can do at least one thing right. They could really name a mountain because it is a miracle. If you'd like to have the book just ask for it if you help us give

water. Do you believe it would be great to rename that Miracle Mountain? And will you thank God for the miracle of Megan?

Thank all of you for being here. I thank all of you at home, all over the world, thank you so much for watching. Thank you for helping us share life! God bless you!