

4/20/15
Week 17
Spring Mission Feeding
Christy and Annabel Beam

Betty: We're so happy that you could join us on *LIFE Today*; I'm Betty and this is James.

James: We have the most exciting guest. We've got a miracle. Here's the thing. We have a daughter in heaven. You really may think about heaven a little bit more when somebody is there that's real close, like a child or family member. Jesus is there.

But here's the deal. Sometimes somebody visits heaven and they're still here and there's no question a miracle occurred and we have such a miracle. There's a book here that tells the story, *Miracles from Heaven*. It is about a little girl and her journey to heaven and her amazing story of miraculous, undeniable, medically confirmed, you-can't-dodge-it miracle of what happened when a terrible thing happened, that turned into something wonderful. We've got Christy, the mom, and we've got Annabel, the miracle girl that did have an experience in heaven, the Beam family and they are here.

Would you welcome Annabel and would you welcome Christy to *LIFE Today*?

Christy, Annabel, how are you?

[Applause]

I told you that I just really do like you. You have such a sweet, sweet expression. How old are you Annabel?

Annabel: I'm twelve.

James: How old were you when this miracle occurred?

Annabel: Nine.

James: You were nine. Tell us about it, Christy. What happened? Because this is quite the shock. You're in south Fort Worth, Burleson, and you have some property where there are some

huge cottonwood trees. One of those cottonwood trees had a situation that you didn't know about. Just tell me the story of what took place even before the tree. What was this beautiful girl dealing with that really was a great concern to the whole family?

Christy: Annabel, when she was about four to five years old started dealing with -- she was diagnosed with two incurable intestinal disorders. They have very long and confusing names.

James: Go ahead and say them. Some people might understand that. I won't but go ahead and say it in case some do.

Christy: Pseudo Obstruction Motility Disorder and Antral Hypomotility Disorder.

James: So what was it doing?

Christy: What it means is that her intestines didn't work correctly. They did not have the ability to fire synchronically to push the food through and out her system. So she was in severe pain; drinking and eating was a challenge. Some days our prayer would just be to get soft foods, if not that much liquid down in a day successfully. She was in and out of the hospital a lot. The last year of her disorder she was hospitalized nine times, no less than five days each time.

Betty: Was this something that she was born with or just showed up later on?

Christy: We don't know but it did appear when she was about -- she struggled when she was about four and then she had a major surgery when she was five.

James: And that didn't really correct it to any degree?

Christy: No, and that was kind of the beginning of our long journey. Annabel had struggled, and then we were in the hospital in Boston. We used to travel back and forth to Boston for treatments. When we were in Boston she had given up hope and said she wanted to die and go live with Jesus where there is no pain. We struggled with that, with Annabel not wanting to live anymore.

James: You thought she was serious about it.

Christy: She was very serious. We got home from Boston and Annabel had decided that that particular day she was okay to go play with her sisters. They decided they would go climb some trees out on our property. This particular tree is a very old cottonwood tree. They decided to climb about 30 feet in the air and they were sitting on a branch. That branch began to give

way. In a brilliant plan of safety to get down Annabel ended up falling inside the tree 30 feet head first and landed...

James: But nobody had any idea it was hollow.

Christy: Correct! We had no idea it was hollow and she ended up inside the trunk of the hollowed out tree at the base, at the bottom all alone.

James: So she is a nine year old, she's climbing, a limb gives way; she perhaps dove for safety and actually went right down inside a hollow tree, which is hard to imagine. I know cottonwoods, and this was an extremely big cottonwood -- huge! And hollowed -- hard to imagine; 30 feet she actually fell. Okay, what happened after that?

Betty: Head first?

Christy: Head first. So our oldest daughter, Abbie got me and I went out, realized the situation, called my husband. He came and then...

James: Now when she said to you, the older sister, "She's in a tree," did you think she's in a tree sitting on a limb and we need to get her down?

Christy: Absolutely. I thought she was stuck up inside the tree at the top on a limb.

James: Just sitting around on a limb or something.

Christy: Absolutely. So then I didn't even take my cell phone out to where the grove of trees are located because I didn't -- it just never occurred to me. Then I raced back, got my phone, raced back. Called Kevin, who also I don't think it registered, the reality; but then when the severity of the situation hit us we called 911. It took them three hours to get her out. And they had never done a rescue like that. So the firemen...

James: So she's down inside the tree 30 feet, they have to get ladders, get up there. Now did your sister... I thought you said maybe, did she drop a flashlight when she looked? Was she surprised to look down and see where you were?

Annabel: Probably, because I think what she was thinking was, oh, it's only a foot or two. And then, once I get down then she can get down. None of us really thought it would be hollowed out all the way down. So she -- they were all --

James: Did she drop a light to you?

Annabel: Yes. After I got out of the tree, Abbie told me that she dropped a light down to me but it keep going and going and going. And she could like see me for a split second because whenever the light hit the ground it broke. And whenever I did wake up it was pitch black. So I tried to fumble to turn on the light but I couldn't find the switch to turn it on.

James: Now were you afraid while you were down here in the bottom of the tree?

Annabel: I wasn't really like afraid, you know. Most people would be like, oh, my gosh, I'm in the bottom of the tree. I'm going to die! Or something like that. But I went up to heaven and I remember that it was very bright and I didn't really know where I was until I saw my Mimi who had passed a couple years back, and it kind of registered, I must be in heaven. So I sat on Jesus' lap and he told me, "Annabel, the firefighters are going to get you out and whenever they do, there will be no pain."

James: He told you that?

Annabel: Well, he said I was going to be okay.

James: And that's what that meant to you because not okay was all the pain; right?

Annabel: Well, what I thought at the time was no bumps or bruises or a fractured neck because I had fallen head first. I really didn't think my disease is going to be cured. I thought no broken neck, no bumps or bug bites -- that's what I thought "it will be okay" meant at the time.

James: That's understandable. Now here she is. Y'all are trying to get her out. You've got 911. They're trying to figure how to get down. Okay, finish it out.

Christy: So they did an amazing rescue with a series of pulleys and ladders. They were just brilliant.

Annabel was very calm and very peaceful. She was actually very instrumental in her own rescue. They said they had never seen anything like it. She was so peaceful.

Well, later the next day she said, "You know, Mom, I went to heaven when I was in that tree." Then she began to share that experience with me. One of the things she said was that Jesus told her, "Annabel, it is time for you to back and I'm going to send my guardian angel to be with you and light the tree."

Annabel said she wasn't alone and in the dark anymore, and so that was one reason she wasn't afraid. She could see when they lowered the rope to her, she could see how to grab the rope.

When they said, "put your leg in here," she knew where to put her leg. So they were able to get her out. She was just very peaceful. When they life-flighted her to Cook's they ran many, many, many tests. They thought she had ruptured her spleen. They thought there has to be paralysis, broken bones. I remember the doctor said, "You know Mom, Jesus must have been with that little girl in that tree" because there was not a bug bite.

She was scratched and wet and muddy but no broken bones, nothing -- nothing was wrong with her. And now, looking back, it had to be what he meant was, "You will be healed, Annabel."

When she went into the tree she was on ten medications to make her system work poorly at best. And she is on nothing now.

James: How long did it take?

[Applause]

How long did it take before you realized that that actual healing miracle had occurred and she was just different?

Christy: Well, quickly Annabel realized that there was a change. She didn't complain of her stomach hurting. It was constant and chronic and she was just in agony. And immediately, her days were better and her eyes were brighter and her color was better. But it took us a while because we were afraid to accept that she was well because if she wasn't well, the reality of having to go back and accept again that she had this incurable disorder was just too great. But then it was just -- it was just undeniable. She didn't need the medications; they weaned her off. She's healed.

Betty: What did the doctors say?

Christy: They don't know. They can't explain it. They don't understand -- they have no explanation. But they just say that they're sure happy that she fell in that tree. That's all they say.

James: Well, they probably would say it must have been the jar or the shock effect or something? Or do they even try to explain it?

Christy: They don't. They do not know.

James: Did you try to explain it here in the book?

Christy: No. We are just so grateful. We just feel like Annabel's story is a story of hope and faithfulness. One of our greatest desires is really what we've called, "a revival in faithfulness." It really is just where do you see God proving his faithfulness in your life? And where do you see yourself responding in faithfulness back to Christ? What daily do you see as an act in your life showing God you are being faithful? Because he shows us so many times each day his faithfulness to us.

James: How have you seen the response of people when they hear your story and now you've put it in print where everybody can read it and literally see the miracle? But what do you see happening to people when they hear what a wonderful thing happened in a miraculous way to your daughter?

Christy: It has given so many people hope and encouragement, and just rekindle the reality God is real; and he is real and alive and he does still work miracles. Even if your story doesn't end in a miracle it doesn't mean that God isn't working miraculously in your life.

James: That's beautiful! And we don't always get the miracles we pray for. You'd been praying. You certainly wouldn't have expected it this way. I'm sure your first joy was that she got out all right, that nothing was broken. But you didn't expect this miracle. Now how do you see God using you, your husband is out here, your other children, how do you see God now using the family? Because I guess your husband is working? What do you see God doing with the family? What are you looking at?

Christy: We just feel like we've been called to share our story and to just really continue to encourage others to just listen to our message of hope, and to respond to the call of reacting faithfully to prayer and to praying for others and being involved in other's lives. We had so many people praying for Annabel and for us because it was a very dark time. It is a very dark illness. She was in so much agony and it was so hard.

I really think we wouldn't have gotten through if it hadn't been for so many prayers of others who were called to pray for us; that we will never know how many prayers were prayed for us. So even now, if you feel called to pray for others, respond faithfully.

James: I've tried to make it clear to everybody who watches not to take lightly the power of prayer.

My story when I grew up without a home but the alcoholic father who had raped my mother who she conceived came back in our life, tried to kill her; came in drunk, told me he was going to kill me. I had a rifle and I pointed it at him in self-defense and told him if he moved I'd kill him, that I would shoot him. He never moved. I said, "If you move a finger, I'm going to shoot you."

I called the operator -- we didn't have 911 -- I called the operator and she said, the police, the sheriff showed up and arrested my father; he was in prison for about seven years in a penitentiary. But had he moved, had he just done this, I would have shot him. And I've had people ask me, they'd say, "Why do you think he didn't move?" Because a church, and you're in a Baptist church, and Baptists believe in miracles because they believe the Bible and they believe miracles.

Sometimes we sell the miracle short and we shouldn't because we kind of outthink God, we know the Bible, and sometimes we kind of think beyond him and we shouldn't. But this little Baptist church just like your church, they were praying for me. I believe that's what kept my dad still.

When you look at all that's around you right now that needs to be corrected, one of the things that's really troubled me and probably you all too, and I know Betty, because you and I have talked about it, we don't hear our nation's leaders calling us to our knees; a lot of times we don't hear our pastors calling us to our knees before God. We realize -- and this really is the truth -- you don't just pray and not recognize God puts feet to prayers, oftentimes it is our feet. You don't just pray, God do something.

Oftentimes God tells us to do something. He actually will tell us what to do if we'll ask him. But we need to go to God in prayer. Here's a miracle prayer. You did not expect it to be answered this way. Nobody did. But it was answered and it is a miracle.

And you're rejoicing about it; aren't you, Annabel? You're so at peace. A while ago I thought maybe you were going to go to sleep right here on the -- because she is just at rest and she really is. This is the peace of God.

I'm telling you, this is an incredible story. It's a miracle story. She actually said she saw her Mimi, and you saw --

Didn't you have a miscarriage. Did you say you saw this child?

Annabel: Yes. I described her as a mix of my older sister and my mom. She was kind of like... I was like she kind of looks familiar. So I asked him who she was and he said, "That's your sister."

James: Wow! See here's the thing. Children don't make this stuff up. Heaven is for real and is for real; it is a place that we can spend eternity. But here's the thing I wish you'd understand. We can bring heaven here by Jesus in us. And you see heaven in this beautiful mom and her daughter; and her dad is sitting out here and he's got joy in his life. He's a man who has the peace of God on him because he saw a miracle. He was there to get his daughter out of the tree and help do it and didn't dream she was in the tree and God got her out. But the miracle of what God did -- they want everybody to know this miracle.

Here's the thing you need to understand. God wants to be a miracle in your life for others. He wants people to see Jesus in you.

Father, I pray for everyone watching that they will realize: I've been left here for a reason to reveal heaven right now in me, in us, and your greatness, God; in Jesus' name.

I'm so glad you watch. Would you say thanks to God and thanks to this beautiful family? And thanks for the story, *Miracles from Heaven*. I'll tell you what, it's in the bookstores. You can get it online. But if you'd like to have it, we're going to ask you to be a part of a miracle. And if you'd like to have the book, you just help us give an undeniable miracle to those in need. And this is not wishful thinking, this is not well, I wish I could see a miracle. This is I can be a miracle. This is for certain. This is an absolute.

Watch closely because you are the answer. You are the miracle.

On the mission field

Announcer: The news bombards us daily with a new crisis breaking out somewhere in the world. And in the midst of these devastating outbreaks, there is one crisis that is often forgotten. It is the never-ending food crisis.

Every six seconds a child dies from hunger somewhere in the world. That is ten children every minute. Africa is no exception. Children dying simply because they don't have enough food to eat.

Our mission teams have seen the effects of severe malnutrition and the toll it takes on little children's bodies as this silent killer steals the very life from them slowly and painfully. As our mission team survey areas of need, what they find most often is a grieving mother left only with the memory of her child's death at the hands of starvation. Elizabeth's story is no different yet no less heartbreaking.

Open captions:

>> The fighting was coming here. My husband was killed by the rebels. They took our cow and our food. As we fled my child died of hunger.

>> She is holding out her two month old, a newborn little boy. We're just praying that God will bless them with a much more beautiful future.

Announcer: As our teams prepare to return with stories like these, they often only have a prayer of comfort to offer those who are hurting. But with your help we can provide food to Elizabeth's child and the thousands of other mothers whose children so desperately need our help.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Dear God, I pray that every person watching will be the answer to that need. Betty and I went to South Sudan. It's been such a crisis situation -- very dangerous there, actually. It was dangerous when we went.

Betty, we went with Franklin Graham years ago. Franklin wanted us to go not only to see the need and help meet it, but he wanted us to see the beauty of the Christians there that love Jesus so much that they actually met us with joy in their heart even though they were hungry and needy; even though they'd been pressed away from their homes by the warring factions there. And right now there is an incredible outbreak of just horrible death and killing, and a tremendous need just like you heard described.

Franklin and I stood there, Betty by two emaciated boys that we just really prayed God would resurrect them with love; and sure enough he did. We have seen so many miracles occur. Here's the reason it happens. We've got 400,000 right now located that we have organized into feeding areas where there is tremendous crisis; and an additional 25,000, in addition to that 400,000 in Sudan where it is really, really serious at the moment.

We're asking you to help us feed them for the next months. Now here's the reality: the miracle of the missionaries and the relief workers planting their lives in that pain. All they're asking us to do is give us the ability, they say, to feed them and care for them. Our viewers, now for years, saving millions and millions of lives and leading millions to Christ, the greatest move of salvation is on the continent of Africa, no question about it, and it is because of love demonstrated -- not just proclaimed but demonstrated. And that's what we've been doing.

When I say "we" that's all of us. We're able to feed three children -- think about this, this is amazing but it is so true and everybody can help -- we can feed three children for the next several months for \$30. Feed them every day. Whatever the crisis need is, we can meet it. With \$50 we can feed five. Think about that! \$50! \$100 we can feed ten and I always ask our viewers, "Start at the high end; always start doing the greater."

Could you help us save the lives of ten children by giving them food, and their families? Would you make a \$100 gift and help us take care of ten? -- \$50 will help five, \$30, three. Father, let everyone know, no small gifts, we're giving life; in Jesus' name. You give a wonderful gift of \$1,000, you say, "Why do you say that, James?" Because I know there are people who can, and I know you will joyfully, and we're able to care for 100.

Please right now go to LifeToday.org. Would you do that? Get up and move there and use your bankcard just like it's a check. Or if you want to dial that number there on the screen, please dial it. Take your bankcard and make the gift God puts on your heart; use that card like a check.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you. I want to promise you something. You read this book by Philip Yancey and Dr. Paul Brand, and you're going to see how your body is *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, but how the body of Christ should function. This is one of the most fabulous things I have ever put my hands on. I believe if we get the message in this book the body of Christ will begin to get healthy when we see how God made this body. Please let us send this to you.

One of our greatest friends and co-laborers, Dudley Hall has taught *Heirs to the Kingdom*, CD's or flash drive; we'll send it to you. You make the gift that God put on your heart. We also have a wonderful story, the Word of God in story fashion that will bless you, and the Thomas Kinkade painting.

We want to bless you with gifts because you're giving the greatest gift. You see, we're here to bless you. The testimonies and stories bless you, the program and outreach blesses you, but you're blessing others and we simply say thank you. We want to inspire you and encourage you.

Please right now go online, LifeToday.org or dial the number there on the screen. Make the gift God put on your heart.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Disease, malnutrition, starvation -- all terrible human atrocities being faced every day by people living in remote and impoverished areas of Africa. Those at greatest risk are the children.

This month, 400,000 children are depending on us for survival. And now in South Sudan the suffering has intensified and our feeding efforts are desperately needed by an additional 25,000 children. Our mission teams are in place but your support is critically needed to replenish and distribute food supplies immediately. When you call or go online today and make a life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100, you will provide urgently needed food to three, five, or ten children for the next three months.

As our way of saying thank you, we'll send you *Heirs to the Kingdom*, four powerful messages on audio CD or U.S.B. flash drive. You'll also receive the award-winning book, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*. With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children please request *The Story*, a running narrative Bible to help you engage with God's Word more easily.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed 100 children you may request this beautifully framed canvas print of the "Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkadee.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, we also not only say thank you for helping but we want to tell you about the *Miracles from Heaven*: The little girl, her journey to heaven and her amazing story of miraculous healing. We'd be happy to send that to you. It is in the bookstores if you want to get it for friends.

Would you join us in saying thanks to Christy and Annabel again for being with us?

You're a blessing. You're a blessing! All of you are a blessing. And remember this, to bless you and help you find our way out of darkness and defeat, go to stream.org every day. Go there for your news and then the good news and direction. Thank you so much for watching.

Announcer: Introducing stream.org, a rich and lively source for breaking news, analysis, and entertainment. Stream.org is a new information stream where those concerned about our nation's course can now gather for news, wisdom, and inspiration. Working together we will see the promise declared in Psalm 46:4, "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God." Be sure to visit stream.org, a new site to unite us!