

6/30/15
Week 27 WFL
Bob and Maria Goff

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

James: And we've got Bob Goff here and his wife Maria. He says he's got a book that's titled - it's a New York Times bestseller. It's called: *Love Does -- Love Does*. Discover a secretly, incredible life in an ordinary world. This thing just took off. Thomas Nelson is a big publisher and this is the author that is most requested. That's pretty big. I write for Thomas Nelson.

[Laughter]

This is just absolutely amazing. Bob and Maria are here. Would you welcome Bob Goff and his wife to *LIFE Today*?

Maria: Thank you.

Bob: Thank you.

James: Maria, Bob told me I need to ask you a question first because he told me and you're a little bit like Betty, you just sit here being supportive and nice. What are those balloons on this cover front?

Maria: I love this book! I love the cover. I love the title. And the fact that there are balloons on there are perfect! There has always been balloons in our life. When Bob proposed to me there were balloons. When we got married, instead of big flower arrangements we used balloons.

James: Sounds like a cheapskate to me!

[Laughter]

Maria: It's just that it's whimsical and fun. He probably has balloons in his pocket right now.

Bob: I do.

Maria: I know this because they come out in the wash. I find them eventually. But I love the book! I've got to tell you, I was reading this book again a couple of weeks ago just because I wanted to just be reminded of the message. I loved how -- by the way, when I was reading this book, he called home just to check in with me and that is so strange to be reading a book and have the author call.

[Laughter]

I was a little kind of embarrassed, like do I tell him? So he's like, "How's it going?" I said, "I'm reading your book!" He's like, "Well, how is it?" I said, "It's really good!" And the message that just rings true to me and I'm so glad that it's in there because I think it rings true for a lot of people is that God uses ordinary people to get stuff done. Isn't that great?

James: Extraordinary things!

Maria: Extraordinary things -- but just broken and ordinary people. I know that we feel like broken and ordinary people and we have wonderful kids but they're ordinary also. He's used us in really special ways.

James: We'll edit that out kids!

[Laughter]

Maria: Yeah! But they would say that too. They love the Lord and we've been able to do really great things with them. They did interviews with world leaders and we've had parades in our front -- in our neighborhood just so that neighbors could get to know each other better. We even have a place where we take people that we know they need rest because they're working on the front lines doing great things for God. So it ends up that those people are ordinary and broken too. It's kind of a beautiful story.

James: They are. Bob, do you ever say anything?

Bob: Yeah. I think of myself in a --

James: You seem interested in what she is saying. I'm thinking about reading your book, man. It's good stuff. She acts like she liked it too.

Bob: I think this idea of being secretly incredible -- I don't think God wants us always taking

bows for stuff. I think this idea of he would make two people who couldn't see, give them their sight back, and I would have made a big deal about it and he said, "Don't tell anybody." Right?

And he does this Jedi thing and like -- the guy that has leprosy doesn't have leprosy. He's like, "Tell no one."

Then he raises a little girl from the dead. Right? And he says, "Don't tell anybody."

I mow the lawn and I want a hoodie that says: Bob mowed the lawn. Right on the back it says: Yet again!

[Laughter]

Right? But if we keep making everything about us it will never be about Jesus.

James: You know what I think he's saying when he is saying that? And you may have an opinion, I'm sure yours is better because you write books, bestsellers. Here's what I think is he is saying to them, when they see the miracle, I really want you to go away, not as excited about the miracle as you should be about me, Jesus, who I am. I am in you, all you seek. I am that living water. Does that make sense?

Bob: It makes a ton of sense.

James: It was like they kept coming back, "Let's have another breadbreaking of feeding 20,000 people with the fast-food that you just multiply." They were always looking for that. He did it because that's who he is, a miracle worker, but he wants us to know him for who he is. Paul said, "I count it all things loss except to know him."

Bob: I think about the difference between being right and being humble. I'm a lawyer, even when I'm wrong I think I'm right. But I think one of the things that God wants us to be is humble people. So he'll use anything in our lives to get us more humble. So for me, like putting the cell phone number in the back of the book was terrific because when people call --

James: And you really did put your cell phone number on the back of the book for people to call?

Bob: Yeah, there's about a million people that have my cell phone number and 900 witch doctors.

James: How many did you say have your phone number?

Bob: About a million. So I don't let anybody go to voice mail; isn't that awesome? And there's something -- you know what? Every time I answer the phone and say "hello," I think I just answered every question they have. People just want to know it's true.

James: People want to be loved -- do you know many of the calls to our phone center are people that are lonely? They say, "I wanted somebody to talk to and I felt like I would talk to someone who cared." Sometimes it's all -- and some of those people will call several times a week, say, "It's lonely again. Would you will just pray with me?" And we do.

Bob: It's just a cup of water for a thirsty person.

Betty: Can you explain to us a little more the title, *Love Does*, and what you mean by that?

Bob: I can't think of one time that Jesus got all of his friends together and said, "Guys, just agree with me." I just think, go do something. It was a lawyer like me that tried to set him up.

He said, "What was the big commandment?" Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. And then he said, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

It's like I've got a stick 'em on my window in the bathroom that says: Love God, love people, and do stuff! It isn't just about agreeing with Jesus. So what do you do? People will know what we believe when they see what we do.

Betty: So love is action.

Bob: So everybody, they've heard all the songs, they've heard all the Bible studies. Show me what you're doing and let it be humble people doing it.

James: Do you think that's the reason our viewers seem to be so excited about feeding the hungry, setting people who are trapped in sexual trafficking free, giving people water; why they look at that as something to be very excited about? Because they're doing something and it is exciting to do that?

Bob: I think that's it. You want to be part of -- it's like Stone Soup. You know that little kid's book? Every throws in what they have and pretty soon everybody's fed. So that's what we're doing. We've been building schools, which is really fun. It turns out like my worst subject in school was school.

[Laughter]

But I'm awesome at starting schools. So we just --

James: Where do you start them?

Bob: Well, we started one in Uganda first and we've got 340 kids in that and 40 teachers. That was the deal with Thomas Nelson. They said, "Will you write a book?" I said, "I don't know. Will you build a school? I'll swap you."

[Laughter]

James: And somebody actually bought it and had it built for them.

Bob: Then we went and started a school in Mogadishu, Somalia, which is just nuts.

James: That's a tough place!

Bob: Then this year, about six months ago, we started one in northern Iraq.

James: Where the Kurds are, in that area? They actually love us; don't they?

Bob: You know what's crazy beautiful about that and it is a very true statement, is that people will be coming -- ladies, this is true of you, us guys, we'll turn into whoever you tell us we are. Right? It is.

If you say you feel like really safe by us, like we'll just feel like we'll become that guy. What if we tell that to our neighbors? What if we tell that to little boys and girls that have fled Isis? Tell them who they are. Don't tell them what they want, tell them who they are, and then God will whisper to them what they want; so very much that idea of showing up and God shows you more and more about who you are, and who you are turning into.

James: When you just show an interest in your neighbor it's like it brightens their day -- just showing an interest.

Bob: This idea of loving your neighbor was not a metaphor for something else.

James: Like your real neighbors in the neighborhood.

Bob: Yeah, look at our parade.

Maria: Yeah, we started a parade years ago when our kids were really little. On New Year's Day had everybody come out of their houses and we said, "Nobody watch, everybody's in. Here's some balloons, tie them on your bikes or your scooter or whatever and it's grown so much.

James: And you went around the neighborhood all together?

Maria: We just went from the cul-de-sac to our house and had donuts and coffee and juice and called it good. Neighbors came out of their homes and they actually get a chance to get to know each other better. We get to love each other better when we know who each other are.

Bob: And we always pick one of the ladies on the block to be the queen.

[Laughter]

You know what's beautiful? The mailman, he always delivers the mail to the wrong person so we made him the Grand Marshal. We just sent him thousands of envelopes.

[Laughter]

But there's that idea of love your neighbor. I think Jesus didn't say who our neighbor was so we wouldn't spend any time trying to figure out who wasn't on the list.

Maria: Yeah, sometimes my neighbor is him. Like he's the one in the house, the one that's closest next to me is my neighbor. So start there and work your way out.

James: I've got a title to suggest for you. This is really neat. I believe you could have such conversations with God –

You know Paul said, "I pray without ceasing." That doesn't mean he was locked up in a monastery or in a closet.

You know Jesus said, "Pray in a closet." There's no evidence he ever went in a closet; it's a matter of getting alone with God. But I believe when you really fellowship with God, you talk to God, you just can have incredible conversations. You can measure them by the scriptures; if you know the word you'll know his voice.

This week I was just talking to God and it was amazing to watch what he does. I said, "You're crazy good! You're crazy good!" And he really is.

I thought why don't you do: Love is Crazy Good! Maybe that will be the next one because love is crazy good! What it does to people is absolutely amazing, because it is like you see too little of it. And when you see it it's beautiful. You just sit over here grinning. You're just happy. Look at your socks! They're colored and striped!

Bob: You've got to wear happy socks!

James: You're not the best dressed guy on the block, but you're just really happy -- you're just really happy.

Maria: I think it is important to have fun. I know we try to do that in our family, is create that environment where there is just this spirit of joy and happiness where music and laughter is just in the air. And I think that Jesus was like that too. He kept things light when he was doing all of the work that he was doing when he was with us.

James: "Joy unspeakable full of glory," Paul said. Somebody back here held up a card that said you said something about some woman hitting on your jeep was one of the stories in here. What was that?

Bob: Yeah, I was driving my jeep. Like a knucklehead, I didn't have my seat belt on at the time.

James: Couldn't afford a real car?

Bob: No! And this lady T-boned the jeep and we flipped it. I went right out the roof. All the sudden I'm sitting on the asphalt. I'm like I just flew out the roof of my jeep! And it's upside down. And because I'm a guy, you know there's gas in the car I'm thinking blow up!

[Laughter]

But it didn't but -- shoot! So the fire trucks came and they towed this car away. And this lady, like her name is -- well, I won't say her name otherwise she might feel bad. Oh, no, I said it in the book, her name is Lynn. Sue me!

James: Remember, his name is in here.

Bob: But she kept sending me flowers all the time.

Maria: She felt so bad.

Bob: She would call me up and say, "I'm so sorry!"

I'd be like in a deposition. I'd get a phone call and I'm like, "Hello! It's Bob."

It would be like, "I'm so sorry!"

"Lynn, it's all good!"

And actually, I sent her a huge bouquet of flowers. I sent it to her with a note that said, "It was great running into you. Now stop calling me."

[Laughter]

But you know what? Lynn just couldn't believe that she was forgiven. I think sometimes we can't believe. We think that beating ourselves up will work better than grace. It just doesn't! It's a lie! So just if we mess up and every time we mess up the worst, you know God calls us "beloved." We're calling ourselves all these other names and...

James: It's crazy good!

Bob: Bingo! We're writing that next time.

Betty: We need to lighten up sometimes in our spirits.

Bob: Pull your happy socks out.

[Laughter]

The only guy that got in trouble at the wedding feast was the guy that showed up without his wedding clothes on. So I put these things on, I'm ready to go.

[Laughter]

You know another thing? If somebody -- it doesn't happen very often because I'm pretty hard guy to not get along with but every once in a while somebody will get in my grill and I just take my shoes off. It's awesome. They'll have a different conversation. It's not stinking about, it's just thinking, well, you're just being humble. Try that.

James: You tell a story in here too about your wedding cake. You want to tell everybody

watching about that?

[Laughter]

Bob: Tell them about that one.

Maria: Oh, my gosh! Well, we cobbled the wedding together and it was beautiful but we relied on friends --

James: It wasn't a balloon cake?

Maria: It wasn't a balloon cake but we had some -- we were volunteering at the time in ministry and one of the kids were, his father had a bakery so he offered to do the cake for hardly anything.

But when we got to the wedding the kid was in the parking lot with an A.V. truck and he was like stacking all layers, like assembling it right there in the car -- the cake! And then he starts rolling it across the parking lot and it like hits gravel and the A.V. cart stops and the cake just tumbles down.

So Bob was just like, "You go on in! I'll be right there."

[Laughter]

And then I found out later.

Bob: Oh, yeah! And so I said to this kid, he's like looking like a deer in the headlights. And I'm like, "Buddy, go make more frosting." So we like frosted it up and served that...

[Laughter]

The statue of limitations has run on that one. But here's the deal. I think God serves us up, little pieces of asphalt and all. He serves us. We think we're too broken and God just says, "That's a lot more pieces to work with."

James: Let's just tell everybody. If they read this, will they laugh like this?

Bob: I hope so.

Maria: And cry -- laugh and cry.

James: This guy is a hoot. Thomas Nelson is a big publisher and I've got a lot of respect for them. They did my life story years ago. Jerry Jenkins wrote it, as a matter of fact. Imagine that! The guy that wrote the 50 million selling Left Behind series. And it's just amazing what Thomas Nelson has done. When they say somebody is good, he is good. This audience says it is good. Y'all like Bob? Y'all like this guy?

[Laughter]

Y'all like Maria? Let me just tell you, that you're a breath of fresh air. You're not hot air. You're not like a lot of preachers, you're the real deal. You're a joy -- both of you! You're an absolute joy. I'm saying that to you. It's kind of like coming in here and it's more than mercy drops, it's like honey dew drops of just joy and life and peace and love. And come on! Hey! I'm going to be thinking about you. If somebody hits my vehicle, I'm going to think about you.

[Laughter]

Bob: Call me up!

James: I will. But it is just amazing.

Father, I just pray the joy that's just kind of flowing out of this couple, which really just flows from your heart and you really -- I think this is part of the river is Jesus that you said would flow freely. Just let him flow. There's a lot of sorrow and sadness, a lot of broken hearts. We know what it feels like. God, heal broken hearts and put joy in us that's unspeakable. We can't even express it adequately and it is full of your glory; in Jesus' name.

I don't know where you are. You may need somebody to say, "Boy, I'd sure love to have some of that joy!" That phone number there is paid for by love for you. So someone can, not have a sermon for you but a shoulder for you, pray with you and love you. Feel free to call.

Bob, Marie, we love giving people food when they're hungry, setting them free when they're trapped and our viewers think giving people a fresh water well when they've never had clean water is one of the most exciting things. We win people to Christ. We give them Water for Life and tell them about the water of life. I want you to watch this. You're going to love it!

On the mission field

Announcer: *LIFE Outreach* travels the world to the most remote areas of need where water is

scarce and clean water even more so. God's Word says faith without works is dead. So love is put to action in a tangible way -- and you were part of that, every meter drilled down, every rise and fall of a hand pump. But as we spend time with those in need listening to their stories what often surfaces is pain so deep and hope so absent, no water well can lift their hearts or heads.

>> I worry that I could die any day. I have no children and no hope.

Announcer: Fortunately, we come with the one who can lift hearts and heads.

>> But I recognize that you died for my sins.

[Repeats]

Announcer: When you give the thirsty a drink, you give it unto Jesus. But we are compelled to introduce them to him as well, and miraculously, hearts broken from children lost begin mending. Tears of pain turn to joy as they taste of eternal water. And again, you are part of that. You send us, you send Jesus in us, and it is with great joy we go. For while the transformation and families and villages, their futures brings great fulfillment. Little compares to the joy and reward of their eternal future secured. At times we have posed the question, what would you do if this was your family in need? Well, guess what? Many of these are family now -- and forever.

Thank you for partnering with us. May it never end.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Thank you! Isn't that a beautiful sight seeing people coming to Christ-like that? So grateful! Just this week, you didn't know them there, I saw Luke, our oldest grandson, he's kneeling there praying, and leading people to Christ. And his wife is there, Cassie. They just came over this week and told us about what it was like to just share Christ. They said of our granddaughter-in-law, the missionaries back to us said, "She's winning everyone in Cambodia to Christ that has two legs. We have never seen anything like it" -- just going and sharing Christ.

The thing I want you to understand is that when you really reveal love, when you share it freely, people then respond and they want to know where that love came from. And when you can point them to Christ and his love, for each one of them, they hear because they've already seen the expression of that love, the river flowing out of our heart, and it is absolutely amazing.

Betty, we've saved millions of lives with feeding, millions of lives with water, but in every area where we've been providing life, they have registered more people coming to Christ than their government says lives were saved. In other words, it is so amazing what happens, and it's you who make it possible -- God's love through you.

You see a telephone number there on the screen. It is paid for by love. You have a broken heart? You have a need? You're lonely. You can call. A caring person will pray with you. But that number is also there as a lifeline and you can go to LifeToday.org, very easy, which most of you do. Thank you for that. You have an opportunity today to go call that number or go online and you can give life by drilling a well.

Here's our goal, Betty, I'm excited about it because our viewers are, we're going to drill 500 more water wells this year in more than a dozen countries. Our missionaries find the areas where there is a tremendous need and where they're in place to help. They also have done enough research to know that water is accessible; sometimes it is extremely deep and very expensive. Most of the time it is shallow enough that people can dig a bore hole but it gets contaminated and filthy and then it is as bad as all of the other water. We go down and give them a cased well, a manual pump, and it changes everything. They just need clean water.

Jesus said, "You give a cup of water in my name, you won't lose your reward." Now don't start looking for money or an income or a money tree in the backyard. It is blessing enough to bless. What greater blessing can you have? But God says he will enable us to bless others because he does bless us with his love and his life and the ability to help.

So what we're asking you to do right now is simply go to LifeToday.org or dial the number, take your bankcard and help us drill those wells, 500 of them, one at a time. \$4800 a piece -- that's what they cost. That's the average. Could you drill a part of one? \$2400 or \$1200 and pray others join you?

Most of the wells, Betty, are drilled by people who give \$48. Can you do that? It averages out to basically give ten people water the rest of their life. It's just a gift that keeps giving -- \$144, 30 people. Ask God what he wants you to do. Please? And then just do it gladly and joyfully. I think you'll want to.

Go online, or dial the number. Please do it. If you make a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're sending. Thank you so much for doing it. We have some special gifts to send you to help you grow in your spiritual life because we care about you. Thank you for sharing!

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 "Every Day a New Day" devotional broken out into the four seasons of the year. This daily devotional features scriptures, inspirational thoughts, a Bible reading plan, and a place for you to journal each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request "The Names of Jesus" pen set; one inscribed with the names of Jesus found in scripture and the other reflecting the gifts of the spirit.

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 request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: I think you are excited about sharing water, and above all winning people to Christ, the water of life. If you want this book, and you want to smile and you ought to and have joy, get it. Love does! Discover a secretly incredible life in a very ordinary world -- and you can! I also want to remind you to go to stream -- I hope you've been going there every day. I will tell you

this. If you'll go to the stream every day consistently, remember it is updated all through the day, we're going to have understanding of the times so that we know how to correct a very perilous course and rejoice in it because love never fails. Stream.org and pass it on. You read an article that means something to you, Facebook, forward it, tweet it, get it out. It can go to the ends of the earth. Ravi Zacharias says there's 24 hours a day, one touch from what can be the Roman road to transform the world, not just turn America.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Bob Goff and his wife Maria? You're a blessing! Remember, you help us drill a well and you want the book, you can get it in the bookstores. Help us give water, we'll send it to you! Thanks for watching. Thank you!