

8/25/15
Week 35: Christmas Shoes and Smiles
Foster and Lynn Friess

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

James: We've got a studio audience that I know a lot of the people out here. Here's what's interesting about them. They care about somebody other than themselves. This studio audience is full of people that love you and they've never seen you -- and our guests love you. Our guest is a man that started with scratch, nothing, and put together a \$15 billion fund that is making everybody 20% more and making them wealthy; and helping a lot of people, what they're doing and investing in and involved in.

Years ago, he just sold it. He's never tried to make another dollar. He just tried to help people. That's all he does. His name is Foster Friess. You may have seen him sometimes. Very outspoken -- I love him! The first time I met him I knew I'd met a man that loved you.

He's got his saying, "left right, left right, left right, forward march." He's got a web site that way. And he says we have to get together. We need to have civil discussions and be people of reason and deal with issues.

His wife Lynn, she's putting out children's books. You can get them on Amazon, Lynn Friess. And they're just so great. She loves kids and she wants to show them the glory of God in simple stories and this is a *Western Lullaby*. We'll send it to you. You'll love it -- for children or grandchildren. I want you to welcome this couple that I love and praise God for and I'm grateful for.

Would you welcome Foster Friess and his wife Lynn to *LIFE Today*?

[Applause]

Foster, I'm really grateful that I met you because I feel like I met a gifted man that God had moved beyond yourself. Were you ever caught up in yourself excessively, I mean nauseatingly?

Foster: Never! Never! I've been humble all my life.

[Laughter]

You know the word *ego*, ego is an acronym: Edging God Out.

James: Wow! Were you ever guilty?

Foster: I could have been. I mean yes.

[Laughter]

James: We actually shared briefly earlier that Jesus really changed your life. You started with nothing. You're the one percent. So we want you to know America is being trained to hate you. It doesn't matter that you're paying most of the taxes, paying most of the welfare upkeep, all the things you're doing for people. Many people say thanks!

Hey, thanks to all of you one percent for helping us meet all our needs. Let me say something to the top one percent. Let me say something to both of you. The worst thing you can do in your crowd is pay off all our debts. Because the worst thing you can do with your money is give it to a federal government who has proved to the whole world they cannot manage money well. So please don't do it. Will you tell all the one percent and the five percent, don't do it!

Foster: James, you're the greediest son of a gun!

[Laughter]

Think of all the phones we can buy for these people! And food stamps! We only have 47 million people on food stamps. We could double that!

James: Okay, that's good! Sounds good! You ought to run for president. You're sure to win. Let's really talk about what needs to happen. You believe that for freedom, Christ came to set us free, Galatians 5:1. What can people in this audience and people sitting at home do to preserve and protect our freedom when you're spending so much time trying to get our leaders to have civil discussions, left right, left right -- that's one of your web sites -- left right, left right, forward march. What can people, they say, what can I do? Christian people, what can they do?

Foster: Well, to follow up on "left right, left right" theme, the mission statement is uniting Americans of opposing political perspectives to benefit efforts they both embrace. So for example, we have on the web site Sheila Jackson Lee who is known as an extremely liberal congressman from Houston, African American, on the same stage promoting school choice with Ted Cruz.

Many people know Laura Ingraham is a conservative talk show host but most people don't know she has three adopted children. So we have paired her with Mary Landrieu, the former senator from Louisiana who is quite liberal because she headed up the 141 member adoption caucus. The two of them are working on trying to restore international adoptions, which have gone from 22 million to 5 million in the last five years.

So there's a film called *Stock*, which talks about the orphanages and the problems, and so they are working to try to promote that film and get this back on track. So one thing we can do is find somebody who disagrees with you politically and find something that you can share.

In my hometown of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, the republicans and the democrats, the key personalities, not necessarily the party leaders but they're coming together to raise money on a walk in a golf outing to supply the senior center because the city ran out of money. So it can be a small issue or big issue.

So one thing is to look at other people and say how do we build a bridge? How do we find something that we can agree on rather than constantly being at each other's throats and trying to disagree?

A second thing is, the biggest threat we face in our generation is not the issues of immigration, health care, climate change, it is the global Jihad movement. It's going to be an issue for years and decades to come. And our government, this goes back before the Obama administration hasn't really educated us as who is our enemy. One day it is the Taliban. Then it is Isis. Then it is al-Qaeda.

If we can realize that this is a global effort -- now they have rivalries between each other but the Shiites and the Sunnis have a common goal, even though they're at each other's throats and that is to dominate the world with their religion. And you can see what they're doing to try to achieve that.

James: And it is a deadly effort. It's not just like we want to have a disagreement and prove our point. If you disagree you're out.

Foster: You're pretty much out -- and I mean out in big time. Everybody sees what it is. So to win the issue of the global Jihad movement, that's sort of like the Super Bowl of that movement. But to win the Super Bowl the teams have to win the first game and then they have to win the division, and so everybody wants to go to the Super Bowl. Well, we could start very simple.

The very first thing we can do is arm the Kurds. These people should be our boots to ground. I was in northern Iraq. I went to Camp Black Tiger, which is a Peshmerga camp on the Isis front lines because I felt if I want to get people convinced this is what we should do, I have more credibility if I was there and experienced it.

So I talked to the vice commander and he was talking about the divisions of equipment, battalions that we lost to Isis, that the Iraqi government lost, the Central Government. Right now they have like 2,000 armored humvees which all of us, in this audience paid for.

James: Because they took them away from the others.

Foster: But where did the equipment that Isis has? It came from us, taxpayers via the Central Government. The Peshmerga vice commander says, Peshmerga has never lost a single bullet to Isis. Now these people are fighting for their lives and country.

Sirwan Barazni is a very, very wealthy man; came out of retirement to be the commander. When I visited Camp Black Tiger I see a lot of these guys are 30, 40, 50 years old. They've come out of retirement because Sirwan walked -- apparently the story is he walks up and down his troops and says, "Look, you can spend your life in a refugee camp at the age of 75 and die there or you can die here fighting for your land." These people are highly motivated. So why don't we allow them to be our surrogate boots on the ground? We don't have to send American troops. They tell us.

In fact, I just met with Ross Perot who was kind enough to have a dozen of us together. We had President Barazni, the ambassador for America to Iraq, the head of the state department who is responsible for this area, Senator Cornyn, Senator McCain. We talked about what is it going to take to retake Mosul? What is it going to take to help these people?

So I got in a little trouble, frankly because the ambassador to Iraq says to the President Barazni across the table, "We're so proud that we've been able to partner with you because we sent you 25 MRAP's," which is a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected wheeled vehicle. "And so we're going to send you maybe 14-15 more."

So I got up, maybe, I'm not as bashful as I should be; I should be a little more bashful. I said, "You might be proud of that but as an American, I'm not only embarrassed, I'm ashamed because there are 250 MRAPs that went to the Central Government."

Why did the Kurds only get 25 when they're the most effective force confronting Isis? The Iraqi army is abandoning it. In fact, when Ramadi just fell the amount of Iraqi soldiers for the Central Government outnumbered Isis like seven to one but they took off.

So I asked Harry Reid, "What do you think about arming the Kurds?"

"I've been for it for months."

I asked John Boehner. He said, "Well, we are arming the Kurds."

"Yes, we're arming the Kurds because we sent 250 MRAPs and they get 25."

So they're not getting what they deserve.

So the vice commander told me, "Look, we don't have night goggles. The Isis guys are coming in the middle of the night and throwing grenades in our bunkers. We don't have tourniquets, first aid stuff. We don't have mechanics to repair the broken axles. We don't have the ability to defuse an area that we pushed Isis out of. They're booby trapping it and we're losing people to that."

So people say, "Well, if Harry Reid is for it and Boehner is for it, what's the big deal?" Well, first of all, people don't realize that in order to get the arms to them, it has to go through Central Government because our government is...

James: You're referring to the Iraq government.

Foster: The Iraqi government in Baghdad, run by Shiite Al-Abadi; he controls what gets to the Kurds. They are very suspicious of the Kurds becoming an independent nation. "We can't let them get too powerful because they'll succeed and Iraq as a country will unravel."

So that's been our state department policy going back into the Bush administration. I think the people, this Brett McGurk is a great guy, just running for the first time and I don't know how he can deal with all the lives that are being lost. When they took Ramadi, it was on Memorial Day weekend and you didn't catch the news. I bet if you asked your audience how many heard the news that once Ramadi fell, there's another area called Palmyra, they wind up 400 women and children murdered.

James: I'm going to interrupt you here because Foster, here's the thing you don't understand. I'm afraid you don't. The passion and love for people, for us, for all people to stop those committed to the destruction of every person who simply disagrees with them and to impose on us the law of their religion that is really as anti-godlike as anything you would ever see and they want us -- they not only want Israel gone, they want us gone. We're the great Satan to them. And if we don't resist this evil then we're going to fall.

The thing I need our viewers to see, you can go in there. When we're riding after meeting with leaders earlier in the day here in the area, John Bolton calls him on the phone. They get on speaker and we go back and forth and I'm listening to a man, a former ambassador to the United Nations, finding all the ways that they can -- this is how I see it -- put God's arms of love, the shelter and shadow of his protection over innocent precious people that are being destroyed when it doesn't have to happen if you'd just get common sense and the people would work together for the common good for the benefit of all.

Here he is, and he is so alone, and you see somebody like me get excited and you just wish you could get everybody in Washington excited. You're the key to getting people to pull their head out of the sand, put their feet on the ground on a solid principled foundation that appreciates freedom. Our soldiers and our family members have died to protect it and preserve it, and they're dying and even serving enemies and trying to raise them up and help them in love and we're going to sit back and go on with business as usual.

He wrote me so many e-mails, "James, they're cutting the heads off of Christians." He said, "Why aren't the churches there? We've got to stop this! They're going to come here and cut our heads off."

The fact is they have cut the influence of people like you, who love God, love people, want freedom, want life, want opportunity; you've been cut off from the Headship of Christ and his wisdom and you're not living in the shelter and shadow with courage.

Betty: I wanted to ask you, what can we do to change that?

Foster: The number one action, again, to win the first game of Super Bowl so we can get to the divisional play-offs and then the Super Bowl. The number one first simple thing that everyone can do is to talk to their congressman, their senator, and to friends in other states who can talk to their congressman and senator, to arm the Kurds because right now if we can let them have the equipment they need -- and right now we could put up a bill that has them only getting non-lethal items.

There is a procedure called "unanimous consent" where you put up a bill -- one senator can knock it down but if you just say, "We want to supply the Kurds with tourniquets, with night goggles, with the ability to defuse the booby traps" and we're not going to give them machine guns or tank weapons or other stuff, just non-lethal stuff. It would be very hard for any senator to say, "I oppose that." Then it can immediately get in action and we develop the pattern that it is shipped to them directly. Now that's not hard for people to do to get involved with their

congressman or senator and say this is what we want to have happen. It's a very easy thing. It is the first step. It's not going to solve the whole problem.

James: But it is a step. What he's doing is he's bringing the opposing parts together to show that we really are a family, we're really freedom's family. And he's saying, okay, let's just preserve their lives. They're hurt. Let's give them the ability to take what's coming and send it directly to them, just like you would send relief to refugees or people who have been hit by a tsunami or a crisis or a drought or a famine, whatever.

He said, "Surely we can pass that." Then let's show them if we go directly to the people and we find people who love life and freedom and truth, then can't we give them the ability to stand for it against the forces that are determined and committed and boldly saying they intend to destroy you? They've already said their going to destroy the Vatican. They're going to destroy the entire area of Italy. They're going to destroy the United States. They are boasting that they're going to take us out.

What are we going to do? Are we just going to sing at church? Stop just singing and start living what you're singing -- care about people, stand up for truth.

Here's the thing, in the Bible, listen to it, Galatians one: It was for freedom that Christ set us free. It was for freedom! Freedom touches everybody. It doesn't *just* touch us. Freedom is a blessing. Freedom is like the Promised Land of opportunity to not only live your dreams but God's dreams for you, to be carried by the gift of the creator who gave us the capacity to take what he created and meet virtually every need and challenge that we face as human beings created in the image of God. If it was for freedom that Christ set us free, how did he set us free? He paid for it with his life, to defeat deception and death, and let us live out the truth.

Foster and Lynn, from the depth of my heart thank you. Thank you for every moment, every effort that you've done for others; these are people you love who are not even here. But you love us.

Would you please, please, Foster is an answer to your prayers, Lynn's an answer, I think Betty is, I think I may be an answer to her prayers because the zeal I have, I think she prays it up. I'm begging you, please! If Christ gives us freedom, let's preserve it and protect it and let's proclaim it to the ends of the earth. Would you say thank you to Foster Friess and his wife Lynn.

Foster: Thank you.

James: Would you join us praying for God to turn our nation and give our leaders the ability to come and reason together, left right, left right, like Foster says forward march?

Father, please do it. And use us to be an answer to those prayers and to your prayer that we be one, perfected in supernatural unity; in Jesus' name.

Foster and Lynn, one of the greatest joys -- you've written children's books and this is a great one. This is a *Western Lullaby*. It actually has in the back, it has what you sing to children and grandchildren and it's a DVD. It's beautiful. This is just a treasure. This precious grandmother loves kids. This is the best illustrated book I've ever seen. I want to send it to you to say thanks to bless your children or grandchildren.

But also, we have some other gifts. Here's what I'm going to ask you to do. I want you to help us put smiles and shoes on children for Christmas. We're actually going to do a lot of cleft palate surgeries; they cost \$500 each. Would you pray about giving one or maybe a couple of those surgeries? The shoes are \$3.60 apiece; \$36 will give ten pair and \$144, 40 pair. What I want you to do if you would is watch and see if you don't want to give some shoes and some smiles. You watch closely. Let's do something special for Christmas.

On the mission field

James: You sure are pretty! Hello there! How are you doing?

Aren't they beautiful? You know what Jesus said? Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not. We are the representative of Christ; we're his body, we're his family, and we can share his love.

Betty: We want to be able to help these children. They're so worth it. If it was our children, we would want someone to reach out to them.

Kathy: *LIFE Outreach International* is absolutely providing food and pure, clean, drinking water for children such as this. We are absolutely, through your giving, getting the job done in places around the world.

The thing that is exciting though, that *LIFE Outreach* would love to do, is putting shoes on little children like this little girl across the world. Just a simple gift of putting shoes on the feet of this little precious girl would help her as she runs around, as she plays. No telling what she steps on every day.

James: They can get diseases. They've got what is known as hookworms that get in their feet when they just walk in dirt or sand, and then it gets into their little intestines and causes serious problems. We're going to give children all over the world shoes. When I say "we" that's all of us together.

Hi buddy!

Tammy: What I love is that this simple pair of shoes has become a treasure to this little girl. I love that she is holding on to it like it is the greatest gift she's ever been given.

Kathy: I'm... I'm pleading with you this day that you would find it in your heart to remember God's heart for the poor. I pray this Christmas that you would bring that joy to her heart. That's what I'd love to see. We're going to get you some shoes, honey! You sweet thing!

End of clip

In the studio

James: I've literally prayed children into my lap that I've seen back in the distance. Betty's watched it happen. I so wanted to hold them and touch their little feet, and so wanted to put whatever they needed in place. We have been able to put God's arms around precious children and people all over the world.

And I'm asking you to help us give these shoes and put them on little feet. These are very doable. They do have a Velcro strap where they can grow and expand them a little bit and wear them when their foot is a little small and keep them from getting hookworms that cause horrible bacterial disease, even gets into the brain.

And I'm asking you to please, please, let's give them the shoes -- 200,000 pairs. And we want to give as many cleft palate surgeries as we can. We call it "Shoes and Smiles for Christmas." We have to raise it during the summertime and get everything in place so we can let the missionaries deliver it. It is a big deal to them.

Father, I pray everybody watching will help, at some level they'll do it; in Jesus' name.

Now listen. The shoes are \$3.60. You might say, "I can do that." Well, do it because for one child that's real important. \$36 and you've got 10 pairs of shoes, \$144, as an example, you've got 40 pair. We're going to say thank you for any gift by sending you the shoe, the little Christmas shoe. We've been making them every year.

People love this little ornament that you put on your tree. People come in and talk to you about it and you talk about loving people -- talk about what love does. Here are all of them, now for five years. We'll send them all to you if you'd simply make a gift of over \$100 and help us buy a lot of shoes.

By the way, the surgeries are \$500 each. That's what it costs us to get them done. So how about giving some smiles? \$1,000 will give two children a smile. Isn't that a great gift for Christmas?

Betty, I'm praying everybody watching who can help will.

Betty: I know you will because I know you care about these precious little children. You care for them from the bottom of their feet to the stop of their heads, and that includes shoes for their feet and smiles for their faces.

James: And you know that's the smile that got me -- that swept me off my feet 55 plus years ago! And we've been married 52 years. We've really been trying to put God's arms around a world. But do you realize... And we're asking you right now to go to LifeToday.org or go dial that number. Do you realize every day we come into your home we're trying to put God's arms around you to help you put God's arms around others in every way possible for freedom, for love and life.

Right now you make the best gift you can. We're going to say thank you by blessing you and you're going to really enjoy it at Christmas when you talk about what love does.

Please, LifeToday.org, dial the number, use your bankcard, use it like a check. Make the greatest, largest gift you can. But the best gift you're giving, you're going to be giving life and love. Thanks for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it, children needlessly suffer not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children, they've never owned a new pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor in the light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

By responding today you can help *LIFE* immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will

help provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will help provide 20 pairs. And a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

With your gift of any amount be sure to request this beautifully crafted green antique shoe ornament, a treasure to place on your tree each holiday season. With your gift of \$100 or more you may also request a special boxed set of *LIFE*'s Christmas shoe ornaments from past years.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries. And you may request our beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: I just say thanks. And I want to remind you, let me tell you something, you've got grandchildren, you've got young children, you're going to love this! Here is the little child falling asleep hearing the *Western Lullaby*; all the little toy horses, but out in the field there are horses by the stream. Lynn Friess teaches us to appreciate all God has made and behold him in all his glory and the glory of his creation.

We want to send this to you if you'd like to have it. Or you can go online and see all the books that Lynn's written for children. We just appreciate them.

Would you please say a great big thanks to Foster Friess and his wife Lynn Friess for loving others?

God bless you, Foster, God bless you, Lynn! Thank you for blessing others. Thank you so much -- let me tell you something, if you want to learn why things matter, what to do: stream.org. Go there every day prayerfully and learn. Thank you! Thank all of you for being with us.