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Week 41: Rescue Life
Southeast Asia *LIFE* Center
Taya Kyle

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm James Robison.

We have *American Wife* -- the wife of American Sniper, Chris Kyle. The story is incredible. The movie was of very high impact. It revealed what someone did for freedom, for us, and also for the potential freedom of others who were in many instances enemies -- how we reached out.

We have Chris Kyle's wife here. You know how we lost Chris. He did a lot to protect us, to protect freedom for you and your children, and those you love -- and for people all over the world. But he lost his life trying to help a veteran, a soldier who had terrible, terrible depression he had not overcome. He had the syndrome of all that had taken place and they were trying to help him. And the guy shot him -- he and his buddy.

Suddenly, Taya, *American Wife* is an American widow and she is a blessing. She desires to be a blessing, which is why she wrote the book. Would you welcome Taya Kyle to *LIFE Today*?

[Applause]

Taya, the first time most of us met you was at the memorial service of your husband in the Cowboy Stadium, AT&T Stadium it is called now. When you came to the platform, I want to tell you that I believe you had help that was supernatural. You communicated a gratitude, rightly so, for your husband, an appreciation for Americans that loved you and your husband appropriately, and a desire for faith to have its full impact in all of our lives.

Did you have, you feel, supernatural help when you went up there in that very difficult moment and I saw you in that stadium?

Taya: Absolutely! And I feel like God promises beauty through ashes, and I feel like I've seen that so many times now, that the beauty far outweighs the tragedy that I've seen. I'm not saying the way I feel about it but I'm saying that the number of people I've seen beauty from is far greater than the number of people that I've seen evil from.

With that let me just take a little side note. When we're talking about the person who murdered Chad Littlefield and my husband Chris, he claimed to have P.T.S.D. but I want everybody to know that he actually did not have that. The psychiatrist from the prosecution and the defense both testified to that fact because he never had a traumatic event. He wasn't in combat. He didn't pick up bodies in Haiti. There was none of that. He chose -- he has free will like the rest of us, he chose evil, he chose to abuse drugs and Chris wasn't privy to all the information. He just wasn't told all of it before he went down.

I just don't want... My purpose in clarifying that is I don't want anybody of our first responders or veterans or anybody else who has P.T.S.D. for any legitimate reasons to have a scarlet letter on them that they're a murderer. They just aren't. They don't murder people. They hurt themselves and they have other problems but they don't murder people.

James: But your husband actually went with a desire to help somebody that was hurting.

Taya: That's exactly it. In some ways it seems like it's not as surprising; and in that he died serving because he was that type of protective person.

James: Do you see that when he went over in the first place and became a sniper, did you see that in his heart, a desire to help all of us have the freedom that we've been so blessed to enjoy? Did he see his role as a protector, like a loving father or husband should be for those he cares about; that's what he saw himself as?

Taya: It's interesting because from the time he was a kid there are stories of people who went to school with him and people who can tell me stories of him being that humble protective person for others and that was no different when he was in the military. He always said that while he was trained to shoot and to do his job that he didn't know when, in the situation, he said nobody knows if they will actually be able to pull the trigger or not.

But what I've learned in knowing him is that so many of our warriors, first responders and veterans, find themselves in a situation where they have a choice to make. They either shoot someone and take on the price that takes -- because it is a price. And as Chris used to say you'd have to be a sociopath to truly enjoy that act but you'll do that because this person will then live.

I think about all of us who aren't in those justice-related fields, in a neighborhood of people I like, would I see somebody who is coming to harm my neighbor, would I be willing to take on the price that I might go to trial, I might do it wrong, I might be ostracized and now I'm going to have to face the fact that I had to take another life? Would I do that for my neighbor or somebody I didn't know? I think you don't know until you're there. But it comes from a place

of love, it comes from a place of sacrifice and protection and that he truly enjoyed, fulfilling his sense of purpose.

James: I never saw Chris with an arrogance. There was something unusual and something very significant that he accomplished, that he was very effective in what he did, and that he fulfilled his role. And he did it for you, the children, but he did it for me and my 11 grandchildren and now our great grandson that's come; he did it for all of us -- as all of our veterans do.

And oh, how we want to learn to express love for you -- far more than we've ever been able to and we must, and I believe by the grace of God we will. You wrote the book with a purpose in mind I'm sure because you have a story. What do you hope *American Wife* will accomplish? I think you would want all of us as Americans, and certainly those of us who profess to know God and Christ, to pray for the families, to really love them and lift them up. And to not just pray for their protection but for all the things that come as challenges in their family. But when you wrote the book what was your thought or what is your hope that you pray it accomplishes?

Taya: There are two things. One is that there is, like most people who, we all are these multifaceted people and while people got to see one side of Chris there was more to him that I loved that I wanted to share with people who enjoyed getting to know him. And the other thing and a really big motivating factor for me was to let other first responder military wives know that they aren't alone.

I know that I could have benefited from that when I was going through the hardest times. And then marriages in general, I think this is a very common thing in all marriages that we're looking through our struggles and trying to figure out a way to stay close. I feel like our situation may have been a little bit different but the dynamic is still the same. When we're married, we're all trying to figure out our way to make it be the best marriage it can be and going through our ups and downs and our flaws and failures and triumphs. Hopefully it helps people see what they can do. Maybe we did some things right.

James: So you talk openly about some of those challenges?

Taya: Absolutely! But you can also see what not to do. I'm open about that too. Maybe you look at our story and say, "Oh, I wouldn't do that." It's a cautionary --

James: You said you kept it not quite in the total soldier language, which for those of us who are Christians, we don't know why coaches think that language is necessary, why soldiers in military do. But my goodness, you think, dear Lord! Is this an expression of what's really inside these people? But you said you did keep it in kind of Wal-Mart street talk level. It's

toned down some but you kept it pretty much open the way it was so people could see what's going on; right?

Taya: Well, yeah. That's one of the things that I think -- I think part of the beauty of American Sniper and maybe why it resonated so well is that from the beginning, like you said, Chris is one of the most humble people you'd ever meet and he was -- he didn't want even to do a book. He only did it because other people were going to write it about him and he didn't want to be seen as a braggart or arrogant. He also wanted the people he served with, the guys who died with him, he wanted them to be highlighted and showcased for their service. So that's why he did it.

I think that he put all of his flaws, the bad language, all of it, he just said, this is it. This is where I am right now. This is what we've gone through. And because of that, it resonates with people. We've heard the healing from military couples, not just in this war but from Vietnam and I believe in wars in the future. So many couples have said to the cast and crew of that movie, "I've had those same conversations with my spouse -- the same conversations but I didn't hear it the same way." Because when you're one step removed and you don't have your defenses built up in your own marriage, you hear it differently. And they told us so many stories of dialogues opening up.

Believe it or not, I've heard just two but it's still a lot when you consider what I'm about to tell you is that of stories of where somebody walked out of the theater and sat with one guy sat with a male friend and the other one with his fiancé and they both came to Christ in the parking lot after watching that movie.

James: That's great! And probably many you didn't hear about. And you want that to come through the book. You would like people to come to know the importance of faith, and you felt the prayers of people, right? -- In the journey you've been on.

Taya: It has been one of the most powerful experiences, my faith was strong but I've grown exponentially in my faith and I've seen God work in ways that I couldn't imagine. I know he's put people in the right place at the right time. I tend to be a little bit stubborn and a little wanting to be independent. And I think knowing that, God piled on way too much for me to handle and too much for other people who came in to help with so that I couldn't possibly do it all, and showed me that in overwhelmingly with things I would find that he actually handled them farther on down the line. So if I was capable of trying to handle it, I would have screwed it up, but because I was so overwhelmed, some things unfolded and happened.

And it's taught me a whole lot that I believe Chris already knew about waiting for God's timing. It's not that I wasn't faithful before, I was but I also believed that I had to power through. And

now it's like I'll power through what is on my plate for today and I'm not going to worry and stress about all the trouble that's coming because there was a ton of trouble coming my way consistently, and there still is, but not as much as there was in the early days. I found that God has this amazing way of handling a lot more than what I maybe thought he would have.

James: Could you tell us something about Chris that we might not, people might not know that you think would be important or meaningful for them to know?

Taya: I think that and you'll see this a little bit in *American Wife* but he was very romantic and extraordinarily soft with me from the beginning, and with the kids. And yet, he was innately a good man. I think he knew what that was as far as being strong.

But he could see that, for example, if there was something he needed to change, he didn't just say, "I'm sorry. I'll work on that." He didn't say it until he knew darn well that he was going to be fully invested in changing a behavior. When he set his mind to it he could do it in a way that I haven't seen anybody else do.

He also laughed with our kids. I honestly can't think of maybe five or ten days, if I really, really tried to think where he wasn't at some point laughing with our children. But he expected them to look him in the eye, to shake other people's hands, to have manners but not to the point where they had to say yes, sir to him unless like at one point they kind of got out of the habit of saying it to a bunch of other adults. He said, "Well, for a while, why don't you just say it at home so you get in the habit of when an adult is speaking to you, you say it." I just found that it was so charming and so beautiful how he was affectionate and cuddly with our kids, held them to a high standard, played with them and laughed with them. He just seemed like this amazing combination of a person.

When I look back and see the stress that he was under, and I know it more now than I did then, that for him to do all that while he was grieving the loss of his friends, while he was trying to get over trauma in war, trying to make his marriage work, what an incredible human being to never give up, and to always rise to the challenge that was in front of him. I think that -- I can tell you funny stories all day long but to me those were the interesting qualities that I find rare today that somebody can be all those things in one person.

James: Do the children see him the way you hope they'll see him?

Taya: They do. I heard, before Chris died, I remember having a conversation with him, with our life the way it was, with our friends dying, we had a lot of conversations about death. I remember one of my friends saying that people will forget what you tell them and they'll forget what you did with them but they'll never forget the way you made them feel. As a parent, we're

always trying to do things better but we screw up and we do all these things but at the end of the day I think that's comforting. We always said if anything ever happened to one of us, at least the people we left behind would know how much we loved them. That's the gift my kids have; is that this really incredible person who was flawed, didn't expect perfection from them, didn't expect them to follow everything he liked. He said their path is their path, and he loved them. That's something that I think is the biggest gift for the children, and for me, is that we have no doubts when it comes to love, we have no doubts!

James: What are the children's names?

Taya: I usually don't talk about them in public but I call them in the book Bubba and Angel.

James: Okay. Let me just say to you, Kyle's children, we sure love you! Sure love your Dad, we sure love your mom and we think you're special -- not because you had a special dad and mom, but because you've been exposed to a very special pressure, which the Father God says that we're clay in the potter's hand. And any pressure that comes is either from his fingers or filtered through his fingers to shape greatness, beauty, and Christ-likeness in you. So you're special.

Above all, you've been selected to be more beautiful than any of us can ever describe. You have a beautiful mom and awesome dad -- and we love you!

We love you, Taya. We thank God for Chris; don't we? Thank God for the children.

[Applause]

We try to share... And by the way, I hope you'll get the book in the bookstores or online, and give it to someone. We'll give it to you today if you'll do something that we think is very special. I know you'll think it is, Taya. We want to see people have *Peace in His Presence*; Sarah Young is so amazingly gifted. I've tried to write some, I write a little bit, probably don't write well. This woman is so gifted to write that's its amazing. Now they've taken her greatest statements and devotional thoughts and put them in the most beautiful book. Thomas Nelson does some of these things so beautifully as well as publish Bibles but we want to send this to those of you.

What we're doing, Taya is we're taking care of children that have been trapped by trafficking. They literally become sex slaves. We're building a center for them where we can actually rescue them and keep them safe and secure in the most heavily trafficked area in the world, in Southeast Asia. The miracle is that we can build so much less expensively there than we can here, but it was still expensive. We need \$128 per person or per child per year, which is just so

small an amount but that does so much in the area where we use it the way we use it. So many of you will want to do that. We try to free people from sexual bondage and trafficking. But we're going to build a center for them, a real safe house. And it costs nearly one and a quarter million dollars but the thing is a family, full of love that had been blessed, they're giving \$820,000 toward the goal and we only need \$410,000, which means if our viewers, and this is what they say.

If your viewers will do that, you've got it all, which mean if we'll do our part it basically is multiplied three times in its impact. See if you don't want to help with what we're about to show you and you have the opportunity to do it. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Announcer: This girl's name is Pinky. As a teenager she was looking for work but she was deceived and sold to a brothel.

In Nepal, Kutu was kidnapped and assaulted by a human trafficker and was driven towards the Indian border.

Lyna was sold to a brothel by her own mother and was beaten when she refused to service several men.

Sreyny was orphaned at eight years old and was living on the streets. She was trafficked into a brothel soon after.

>> When I hear stories like these it fundamentally breaks my heart. That's why we have missionary partners working all around the world reaching out and rescuing and restoring young children targeted by the human traffickers. In fact, some of these children can be as young as four, five, six years old.

Now the problem of human trafficking is not getting smaller. It is actually growing. So we need to step up our efforts and reach out to not only children who are at risk but those who are still in the clutches of the traffickers. We are fighting the powers of darkness so we need to provide a center of light and safety for all young victims.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Oh, I thank God for all of our mission workers who put their lives in the midst of that pain, suffering, and tremendous need. The hidden cameras that take many of those shots, our

team oftentimes, is in danger. Betty and I, years ago, we were held captive; I was like held hostage. We never even let those things go out for concern that if they found out that they could do it and frighten anybody they would multiply and do it more. So we didn't talk about it.

But I'm just telling you that these missionaries, filled with the love of God put their life in the midst of such immense suffering that can only affectively be addressed by that love and real compassion. But those who have that love have to have the undergirding and the support. You, our viewers, above all people, the missionaries say, you all have to be the most wonderful people on the planet, they think, because you help them do what God called them to do -- you enable them to do it. We really do want to rescue those precious children.

And now we have a place to establish a safe house, literally. You talk about a real house of help and hope. And we can get the children. And the miracle is that when we found out we could build it so much less expensively and it would be such a fabulous facility, and they would be safe and secure, a family stepped up and said, "We'll make an \$820,000 gift toward that." Which means we need \$410,000 now to finish the facility; and of course, we need \$128 per child or per woman or person that we help through the year; and that's a modest amount but that's what it takes.

So you could help us. You say, "I'll rescue someone. I'll give \$128." But how about helping us also build that safe center, that haven of security and hope? Would you give a gift? Let's just take an example of \$40 and it's multiplied to \$120; it has three times the impact. \$80 goes to \$240 -- it is tripled. Many people say, "I wish I could give a real large gift." Well, \$1200 given right now is multiplied to \$3600 in its effect. Would you go online right now in love and in prayer and make the gift God puts on your heart to help save those precious children and establish this safe haven for them -- a future and a hope? Would you offer them that help?

Take your bankcard -- use your bankcard like a check. That's the way we should always use them, like a check, and go online and make the gift God put on your heart. Or you can dial the phone number and use that bankcard like a check. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*, but call us and tell us what you're mailing. We need to know so we can let the builders, the contractors, the mission workers, all of them know we got it -- let this family know we got it. Your love has been multiplied. Your love will be multiplied.

We want to send you some beautiful gifts. We'll send you *Peace in His Presence* by Sarah Young. This is fantastic! You can actually look through it just for the beauty. It is so wonderfully -- look at that -- positioned. One of my hobbies is photography; I wish I could do some like I see. But the message, the devotional thoughts, it is just fabulous. We want to say thank you because we love you.

The Thomas Kinkade "Forest Chapel" is a beautiful canvas, framed beautifully for you, your home, or wherever you want to use it. It will be a testimony of the love of God.

Please go online right now or call that number. It is always there if you need prayer but today it is there so it can be an answer to someone's prayer. Give them hope. Please make the call and thank you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Innocent children created to be happy, loved and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators; their spirit and bodies broken under horrific, emotional, and physical abuse.

Our dream is to build a unique child rescue center in Southeast Asia, a safe haven 100% dedicated to rescuing young victims from sex traders and helping them begin the recovery from the abuse they have suffered. This dream of a new rescue center can soon become a reality with your support, combined with a promised \$820,000 matching gift. All we have to do is raise an additional \$410,000 to begin construction. That means your gift today will be matched two-to-one having a triple impact! Gifts of \$20 will be tripled to \$60! \$40 will be tripled to \$120! \$80 will be tripled to \$240! And generous gifts of \$1200 will be tripled to \$3600 to help us rescue children from sexual slavery.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you Sarah Young's newest book, *Peace in his Presence*; favorite quotations from *Jesus Calling*.

Also, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help us build the child rescue center and you may request this beautifully framed canvas print of the "Forest Chapel."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: We are sending, as an expression of our gratitude, *Peace in His Presence*, Sarah Young. You will love this! And if you would like to have the book, which is in the bookstores or you can get it online, it might be wonderful to give it to some military family or people who have armed service members in their family to just let them see a little bit of a view from the inside in the *American Wife*. But we'll send it to you to say thank you if you'll help us provide that safe haven for those children, get them out of the sexual trafficking, set them free. We'll be glad to send it to you.

Would you join me with a depth of love that only God can give? Would you together express your appreciation and love for Taya and for her testimony? -- And all our military! We love you, appreciate you, pray for you! Thank you! We love you! Go to stream.org every day and get the news that matters and wisdom. Stream.org. Thanks for watching *LIFE Today*!