

3/24/16
Week 13: Spring Mission Feeding
Chad Veach

James: Betty, we're going to talk to a young guy over here. Are you okay with that? You want to welcome our wonderful viewers?

Betty: Thank you for joining us on *LIFE Today*! I'm Betty and this is James. We do! We have a young person.

James: We've got a guy named Chad Veach. And Judah Smith, he likes you, Chad. I mean, all kind of people said good things about you. You even said you got movie stars and entertainers that pray for you. Are you that needy that you need all of that prayer?

Welcome Chad. Let's find out why they pray for Chad Veach. It's good to have you here!

Chad: Thank you so much for having me. Thank you so much.

James: You said something about our state a while ago. Have you been here before?

Chad: Yeah, I've been to Texas before.

James: And what did you just tell these people?

Chad: Well, it is a beautiful nation! I think it is...

James: Well, they really cheered awhile ago when you said that.

[Laughter]

But they know it is true. They were trying to be humble in front of us. Very unlikely.

Chad: When we start taping they get quiet.

James: They can be humble then. Chad, *Unreasonable Hope*. Now you're out in California.

California has plenty of challenges. Would you agree they've contributed to some of those challenges?

Chad: Yes. Self-inflicted challenges.

James: You've been digging some of the ditches that you all are trying to find your way out of. And some people seem to want to keep digging them a little deeper.

Chad: Yeah. And we're trying to convince them to not do that.

James: I pray you can. Now you've been dealt what people would call a very heavy hand, a very heavy load. *Unreasonable Hope*; now did this particular situation that has to do with a little girl named Georgia, which is why that big pink "G" is on there.

Chad: Yep.

James: And did you say that Justin Bieber put a "G" on his arm somewhere?

Chad: Yeah, it's quite remarkable. Our daughter when she was just four months old, she was diagnosed with a brain disorder. It really for us was a time, when the diagnosis came, challenged our faith, challenged us as a couple. I'd been in the ministry for a number of years at this point. I grew up, both my wife and I are pastors' kids. It's the first time I actually had to practice what I'd been preaching. First time I actually had to really look at myself in the mirror and say okay, let's put into play everything you know theologically but now you're going to live out.

We made the decision from the beginning, from that first day, as hard as it was to hear a doctor say that your daughter doesn't have a brain, essentially, that she'll never walk, she'll never talk, she'll never crawl. The doctor can say as many "nevers" as he wants but we just knew a God that performs miracles. We knew God to be true and faithful and a miracle worker and a healer.

James: Well, what was the name of the disease because it is rare? And what did it do?

Chad: It is called "Lissencephaly" is the medical term; and smooth brain is the simple term. About one out of every 85,000 kids get this.

So we said we're going to put all of our faith in God. We're going to turn to God, we're going to trust him, we're going to look to him. When the world tells us, "Don't get your hopes up" the Bible has told us, "Get your hopes up and put them in God." So we made that decision. We said we're going to have a positive confession, we're going to have a faith belief, and we're not just

going to have words that are empty that are based on hype, the hope is actually because of evidence, because of facts, because of who God has been in the past. The past always gives you faith for the future.

I said if God can do it for guys like Noah and Abraham, if he did it for Daniel, if he did it for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, just the names alone, why would he work with them? But he helped them? My name is just Chad. He can work with me. So we just said, "We're going to put our hopes in God."

I had a friend in New York, I was preaching out there at Hillsong Church one Sunday and he had like a gazillion services and we got to the end and he said, "Tomorrow we're going to go to Brooklyn and we're going to go get pancakes in the morning." I thought that's Jesus right there. "Yes, sir, I'm there!"

He said, "We're going to get 'G' tattoos."

I said, "What do you mean?"

He said, "We're going to get a 'G' and we're going to put it on our arm. And every time I look at this 'G' it is going to remind me to pray for your daughter and to believe for her healing. And you'll know with this 'G' that someone is standing with you." So the next day we did.

From there it just took off. I think now today maybe 80 to 90 people have this 'G' tat, from celebrities to family members to people that we don't even know.

James: You said Ricky Fowler.

Chad: Ricky Fowler got it.

James: A great year in golf, Ricky. My grandkids really like you. I like you too, Ricky!

Chad: I like you too, Ricky!

James: It's great that people are focusing there because they know it is hope. But you have a little girl; how old is she now?

Chad: She is four now.

James: So you've been walking this four years. And has she advanced beyond what they said she would or what are you seeing?

Chad: I like to think that she has. That day, "diagnosis day," we talk about in the book, it was filled with a lot of "nevers." But my daughter is four and she can't necessarily say a word but she'll coo and she's making more eye contact now. When she gets really excited she kicks her legs and that's how you know she is alert.

I know she's really got stuff going on up there because if her brother gets too close she's kicking him in the face. I tell you, that's a smart little girl right there.

James: Doesn't your heart leap at that?

Chad: It's the small little things that take you so far. It means so much.

James: I wanted to say to the audience at home, almost wanting to cut in awhile ago to say, listen to me. You may be watching for you, and God is so focused on you. Or you may be watching for somebody else that doesn't know how focused God is on them. But because you know and you get to tell them, you're going to hear some things or maybe there will be some things here. And of course, the book is in the bookstores, and this is just his journey that they've had children since. We're going to talk about that because that had to be filled with hope.

But actually, we'll send you the book. We may ask you if you'll put an arm of love around somebody, we'll show you that you can just love them right now. But I'm telling you that you're not here by accident. Chad is not here by accident. Georgia is not here by accident.

I want to ask you this. Not a lot of change there. How about you?

Chad: Yeah. I would not trade this for anything. Of course, I want my daughter to be healed -- maybe I'd trade it for that. But both my wife and I grew up in great homes. Our parents are pastors. We both grew up going "Mom and dad are awesome," "Church is awesome." I really didn't have a problem up to this point in life.

I really couldn't relate with people that were in pain until we had this. It's made me have more compassion, more empathy, my sympathy. I can relate with others that it takes you, and now when someone says, "We're dealing with this in our home," your heart just leaps at it.

And you see someone, like a single mom, and she is struggling and your heart just leaps at it because I didn't realize that other people were in pain until I was in pain. Then it just opens your eyes and you start to go, "I'm not just going to rejoice with those that rejoice" but for the first time in my life I find myself really mourning with those that are in mourning.

So it changes you. It makes you not just relatable but it touches you in a way that is hard to explain. It is like what the Bible says. God gives us so much comfort so we can go and be a comfort. And you don't really realize the reality of that until you actually are receiving comfort and you've got this wealth of comfort and this wealth of peace and so you want to distribute it and help people. It really is a life-changing, life-altering not event but journey.

The Bible says that hope deferred makes the heart sick. But it says "hope realized is sweet to the soul." So when you realize that you can put your hope in this person named Jesus, I don't think that Jesus has the answer, I think he is answer.

So when we started to really just -- and our family rise up and say, "You know what? We're finding hope in God." Our home isn't filled with bitterness, it's not filled with rage. There is not confusion. It is not a place of chaos. Our house is actually a refuge, it is a place of peace and comfort and joy and all of this is because of one man, and his name is Jesus.

When we found that for us, we got real excited. We started going, "Look. God did not make my daughter this way. Sickness is not from God." But God has an ability to use your tragic circumstances. That's why the subtitle of the book is "Finding faith in a God who can bring purpose to your pain." That God can actually take your pain and redeem it and bring purpose to it.

We found God gave us a bigger platform, more opportunities than before the diagnosis than we ever had. It was because God was saying, "Hey, you're going through this but if you'll actually point people to me and you'll look to me yourself, I'll use it for my glory; then I'll bring redemption out of what the enemy intended for harm but I can turn this around for good." We found it time and time again.

James: In the audience out here tonight is someone we really respect. Sheila Walsh is up here and sitting out here right center of the whole center section here. Sheila is now full-time with *LIFE Outreach* and *LIFE Today* and the Stream and ministering with us. Would y'all welcome Sheila to be a part of *LIFE Outreach*? She's with us all the time. Sheila knows what it is to have a heavy load and need hope.

What springs up in your heart, Sheila that you'd like for Chad to touch on? Because I know you're identifying with so much of what he must be feeling there in his own home.

Sheila: Just listening to the way you talk about the profound empathy that you now have. As a pastor, that has got to have changed your whole ministry. My question is what do you tell your children? Because I remember when my son was five and he prayed for his grandpa to be healed and the Lord took him home, my son struggled for awhile with prayer because his thing was, "I asked 'don't take my grandpa' and you did." How do you help children process things that are hard to understand?

Chad: That's a great question. We have a two-year-old son and we have a five-month-old son. I often think about this exact question. How will I explain this to my son? There will be a day that he will realize, right now he doesn't, but there will be a day when he'll realize, something is not right with sister. I often think about how I'll explain theology to a young person. How I'll convince him of the goodness of God in spite of his sister's condition.

It's changed me as a pastor, absolutely; that not just for our kids, that you want to present a good God, a gracious God, even if they are in a single home. We just received an e-mail this last week, a single mom in our church, and when the e-mail came through I found myself in tears. I said to our executive assistant. I said, "I don't care what we have to do, you take care of this single mom. I don't care how much it costs us. I want this, that, and the other on her doorstep."

It changes the way you approach kids and it changes the way you approach people at large, even my own son. And maybe the way that I would answer it and say you're more thoughtful. You're thinking through what the answer is going to be. Because I always believe -- this is so true -- I was a youth pastor for 15 years, it's so hard to unlearn bad theology. It's so hard to unlearn that maybe the way that people were raised in church and they got a false view of who God is.

I think them understanding -- my son to this girl who is a single mom in our church, I want people to understand the goodness of God, the Father's heart. The God that says, "Hey, I don't just have a heart to heal people on this earth but guess what? There's real hope and it is in heaven." Guess what? My daughter, she is going to be healed; whether she gets healed here or there, she is going to get healed.

So my hope is not just in waiting for when she is 10 or 15, my hope is going, I know there is a better place that he's preparing. No eye has seen and no ear has heard -- I can't even imagine the things that God has in store for my daughter and for all of us.

Betty: Excuse me. As I've listened to you too and I know from our personal experience, the journey we've been on in the loss of our daughter, that I want people to know that when a

tragedy comes -- and if you live very long, you're going to go through some challenging times in life, loss, heartache, disappointment, whatever it is. But I want you to know that you can realize and know, and I myself came to find how close I could be to God and that he was just every breath that I took. I trust him more. I love more. I have more compassion.

So God does want us to take these times in our life and turn them around and use them for his good and for his glory. That's the desire of my heart because I come away with what we've been going through, "God, I love you so much more. I know you so much better because I know that your heart aches with mine."

And God does! He weeps the tears as we weep. And now God's turning those tears to the heartache of others and that's what I want him to do in my life.

James: I want to thank you, Chad for sharing Georgia with us, and the *Unreasonable Hope*. I pray that you somehow, I just felt like at some point you realize there is something here today for you.

I'm an old guy. I've been around awhile. I can't tell you how much I want your heart healed, and would do anything to heal your broken heart. And my care is a comfort, but the one who knows how to comfort and heal your broken heart is the hope that Chad's been talking about. That's what I'm asking you to receive from God right now. Also, to pray for that person you know needs it.

Father, we're asking you for a miracle right here. Someone at home right now needs to feel like you just put your arms around them. There's not a husband there, there's not a family member, there's not a parent; some say, "I don't have a friend." Jesus, I want you to let them know you are their friend. They will never have a better one. Father, I want you to hold them please. And then I want you to show them how to put your arms around someone else who's lost hope and they'll see love expressed through the person right now who knows who that person is that needs love, and you let them share it; in Jesus' name.

The telephone number there is a call that's paid for by love. We're going to ask people to express love in a few moments, for people to feel like nobody ever cared or noticed and we know there are those who will. But if you need someone to pray with you, that call is paid for by love. You call and you share your heart.

Chad has shared his story and we'll be glad to send you the book, *Unreasonable Hope*. It is in the bookstores. Tell your friends about it. You can get it online.

Betty and I want to say thanks to Chad. Would you join us thanking Chad and Georgia, and sharing Georgia's story with us? Thank you, Georgia. I hope you get to sit in front of the TV. And it would be so wonderful if you'd get those little folds in that little brain by a master's hand. Oh, yes, he does those things; doesn't he? I pray them for all of you.

I want to show you something right now that there's no question some of you say, "You really think miracles really happen?" I'm telling you right now, if you'll open your eyes and your heart, I'm going to show you how you can be an undeniable for-sure miracle. Don't miss this and don't miss being the miracle someone longs for. You are that source of that miracle for someone.

On the mission field

Announcer: In a world of plenty, why do these children look like this?

>> I have no food here. I tried growing maize far away but the crops failed. I have no food for my family.

You can see it's not easy to talk about. My heart is broken. I feel weak, and it is difficult for me to walk.

I have lost my children. My children became sick and died. I had nothing for their hunger.

Announcer: Last week, Victoria lost two children to malnutrition caused by a lack of food over a long period of time. She'll never see them in this world again.

Mission feeding's goal is to prevent tragedies like these by preventing malnutrition in the first place. Because is there anything more precious than human life? And is there anything more miraculous than saving a life?

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, those precious little children, Betty are holding those bowls out that you gave them. I mean you are the ones that years ago, watching us over on the mission field pouring porridge and that soup mix into cans like this and sometimes some kind of a paper bag that would often burn right through and fall out in the dirt, you gave these.

When those children are holding that out, the first time this has ever hit me like that, that for years, churches have passed the offering plate and put in hopefully an expression of love to God

and devotion. Well, what's happening, what fills the bowl, of course, it's a nourishing mix but what fills it, Betty is an offering of love. It's a love offering. You're even the ones that said give them heat-resistant bowls. You did that. We didn't do that. Then you are the ones who put the food in it.

We've got some friends, Betty that said they'll match for 50,000 children exactly what you give. If you gave \$100 to feed 10 children you'd be feeding 20 children. I think this is an answer to prayer. Our friends not only pray, they're an answer to prayer so often. And they make truly a love offering.

Betty: The bowls do no good without the food to put in the bowls. When I watched this spot that we just showed you, my heart just weeps with that mother because she did all she could do. She tried to grow something and it wouldn't grow. She tried her best. She reached out in every way she knew to get food for her children. But all she could do was hold them while they died - - and love them. And feel so sad that she could not save her children.

We can know, we can join together, we can reach out in hope and let's make a difference in these families, these mothers that are losing their babies. It shouldn't be! We can make a difference. We can let these children grow up healthy and happy and a mother watch her children play instead of watching her children die. Please join with us and let's get the food to the children.

James: She was so heavy-laden. It will be love that lifts her burden. It will be love that brightens her countenance as she looks and sees others finding the hope that she longed for. It's not too late.

I'm so grateful. I want to say thanks to our friends that said they'll match what you give. And thanks to those of you who will help us. We've been doing this now for 25 years. This is something I never get weary doing. Sometimes I wonder, God, am I able to communicate it as effectively as I need to? Please do it in the power of your spirit. Betty, thank you the way you shared so beautifully and clearly.

Would you go please, right now and make an offering of love? And that love offering gives life and hope and a future. And we'll point them to Jesus, the beautiful expression of love. Go to LifeToday.org, take your bankcard, use it like a check. You use it for so many necessary things and sometimes not so necessary. This is critically essential. It is life to these children and their families. You can dial the number there. It's always there as a prayer line but would you be today an answer to prayer?

Call the number, take your bankcard, make the best gift you can knowing it will be matched. \$30 or \$50 or \$100 immediately doubled in its impact. Would you please do that right now? LifeToday.org, dial the number and very prayerfully make the gift God puts on your heart. Thank you so much for doing it. If you want to write a check, make the check to *LIFE* because that's what you're giving. We thank you so much for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Angola, Africa, families are suffering, crops have failed. There is no food. And those hit the hardest are the children.

In response to this crisis, Life Outreach has received a 50,000 children challenge that with your help will feed and minister to 100,000 children over the next few months. With previous food reserves gone and Angola facing a severe food shortage due to crop failure, this challenge could not have come at a better time to help replenish supplies for the feeding programs touching the lives of children across Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan.

The 50,000 children challenge means more children can be saved and your gift will have a double-impact helping to feed twice as many children. Your gift of \$30 to help feed three children will now be doubled to help feed six children! Gifts of \$50 to help feed five children will be doubled to help save ten. And gifts of \$100 for 10 children will be doubled to help feed and care for 20 children.

With a gift of \$1,000 or more you can double your impact to help feed 200 children. And also request the "Majesty" bronze sculpture featuring a beautiful buck in regal stance reflecting God's presence and majesty in all the earth!

Please call the number seen here, write LIFE, or go online today to LifeToday.org and make your life-saving, double-impact gift today!

End of clip

In the studio

James: We have so much reason to hope when you think about the Easter season and the fact that it's not just the celebration of a historical event but an ever-present living reality now. When Jesus came out of that grave -- and boy, he is coming back -- but he sent another one just like him to live in us and that's resurrection power.

Think about this. The power that raised Jesus from the grave lives in us and that's what gives us hope and that's what gives us help in times of need. Let's reveal the power of the resurrection through a meaningful personal relationship with the living Jesus and let people see that.

If you helped us literally be a part of a miracle for somebody and you'd like to have this miracle journey, *Unreasonable Hope*, tell your friends it is in the bookstores. You want it. You just ask for it to say thanks for your love and expressing it. We'll send it to you to say thanks.

Let's tell Chad again thank you so much. Chad, we love you buddy. Tell your church folks out there, all those young people in California, pray for me. I'm trying to help the whole country get out of the ditch!

God bless all of you. Thank you for being here. Thanks for watching. You have a great weekend! Resurrection!