

Week 31

7/28/11

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

James: And we have a very special guest who is -- you talk about defending the faith and defending freedom, the Alliance Defense Fund is probably the greatest advocate for everything you would treasure, everything you would hold dear, everything important. I've got here in front of me a book that, as a matter of fact, you could get it by going online.

There is the web site. The A.C.L.U. vs America; American Civil Liberties Union. You say, "Are they against America?" Well, if you really understand the importance of faith and family and freedom, it appears that they are. Now there may be some occasions when they talk about free speech and so forth and yet, in a way it seems like sometimes they would want to limit any speech that exposes some of their intentions. This is a tremendous book. It is written by Alan Sears and Craig Osten. I think you'd find it of great value.

Doug Napier is here who actually was a part of our prayer summit, leadership summit last fall. You can go way back on JamesRobison.net over the columns; scroll back through all the way back to September and read about coming through the storms and read the church leaders there that touch the 20 million to 25 million people basically weekly through their impact and influence. It was an incredible gathering. Doug was there; he was representing the Alliance Defense group because they are really as good of friends we'll ever have in the family and community of faith.

I want you to welcome Doug to *LIFE Today*. We want to talk about what they do and its importance. Would you welcome Doug? Glad to see you.

Doug: Thank you!

James: You be sure and give Alan and all your co-workers there our regards. Would you do that? Let me just ask for our viewers' sake your opinion of bringing these church leaders from such a diverse group. We've got evangelicals, we had

Catholics, we had mainline church groups, Charismatic leaders, Pentecostals, Baptists sitting there like family. That was kind of a pleasant experience I would think.

Doug: It was so encouraging to see these people come together for such an important mission in an important time as this to really look at what the future of America is going to be like in the coming days.

James: Do you think we're facing some very troubling issues that every Christian should be prayerfully concerned about?

Doug: The Alliance Defense Fund was formed 15 years ago to face the kind of battles that are near and dear to all Christians' hearts. We want to keep an America that will honor God, will honor the faith that our founding fathers established this country on. And the gospel is still worth fighting for and we want to fight for that gospel.

We don't see ourselves as the answer, we see ourselves as the protectors of those who have the answers. So these ministry leaders that you brought together, the work that you're doing with your viewers, that's what's important. Our mission is keep the doors open for the spread of the gospel so you can do your job and you can speak truth and hope into the culture because that is what will transform.

James: Do you even believe ministers should be able to freely address what would be considered biblically immoral or against family virtues/interests in that they ought to be able to speak without being threatened with some loss of tax exemption and so forth? And is that a very real problem? Is that a very real possibility?

Because I was actually put off television because of the quote "Fairness Doctrine" back in the 70s and that actually brought about a great concern on the part of church people that an evangelist could be put off for simply saying certain lifestyles are not in line with scripture. I probably said it maybe a little more forcibly than that but I actually, I was quite calm and gentle. I wasn't angry, which I was prone to be angry in those days. I'm now very nice and always happy.

[Laughter]

The point is I made a point and I was put off television and we took a stand and the Fairness Doctrine was reversed. A lot of people want to bring that back, which would limit free speech. My question is, are preachers actually facing the possible of having their right to preach, the freedom speech, the right to preach without fear of something happening?

Doug: James, we represented a pastor in Sweden, Ake Green, mild mannered guy; reminds me a lot of you.

[Laughter]

Preached the Word of God; he was preaching the book of Romans, preached not only about sin but also God's grace and the sufficiency of God's grace. It was a message of hope. Somebody reported him. This is in his church, mind you; this isn't even on television. They reported him. He was brought up on hate crimes and sentenced to six months in jail. Now we were able to intervene at that point at the appellate level and the prosecutor cross appealed because he didn't think six months in jail was enough and he was acquitted.

But this is Sweden, this isn't a third world country. We see our Supreme Court importing foreign law into the United States. We have a devoted project to protect the church and pastors so they can preach the whole counsel of God's word, and that their sermons should not come from the I.R.S. but should come from God himself. And they should not feel that they can't preach everything that's in the good book because it is a message of hope and we want to keep those doors open.

Betty: How do we show people, Christians -- people that have convictions and they have principles and they want to live by those principles -- how do we let them see that just because there is something that deals with our country and the things that we vote on and stuff, that's not politics, that's part of life and what we care about because we have sat back and decided, well, that's politics, we can't get into that.

James: What if it is politics? If it has to do with principles and it has to do with absolutes, what if it does?

Betty: We have allowed it to be the evil thing that we don't get into.

Doug: Betty, you're exactly right. These are topics that didn't belong to the secular world; these were our topics when you talk about family and family values and education. Even the economy is a moral issue. Those topics don't belong to the world, they belong to Christians and God speaks to all of those issues. So we have the privilege of representing heroes. Those heroes are people who want to stand up for truth, who want to live out their faith on campus, who want to not shy away from the truth when they have university professors that are yelling profanities at them.

James: But if one of them were to mention God then there might be some kind of scuttle about it and even court cases about it. Shouldn't a teacher, in just not trying to impose their faith but shouldn't they be able to mention maybe they went to church Easter without recourse coming from some organization or some lawsuit, which is coming. We've got an issue going here now where there is a big deal on whether you stand when you pledge allegiance. So it's unbe -- pretty soon we'll find out that saying the pledge allegiance is against something the A.C.L.U. or someone doesn't want us to do.

Doug: When you read this book *The A.C.L.U. vs America*, you see that there is a very intentional agenda of the left to censor everything that is good and hopeful; everything that Christians hold fast and dear.

You look at America, when we step back, is America better off? Are we better off having removed prayer from school? Are we better off telling children they can't express their faith, they can't celebrate Christmas, they can't hand out candy canes with the gospel message on it? I don't think so.

We have to have some sensibility brought back into our culture, and the Alliance Defense Fund will defend these students. We go into universities -- I think about every university we've gone into where they've had speech codes that have said if you're going to preach the gospel, you have to go to the north 40 where nobody ever crosses the path, but if you're going out there and talk about socialism or down with America, you can have prime real estate. So there is just that inequity out there. But we're seeing changes. We're fighting these battles and we're winning.

James: You made reference a moment ago to economic issues or moral issues. Here's the thing I really would like you to understand. I think it is pretty important for people to understand that from the very beginning of time when Adam and Eve were given oversight of the garden, they were literally overseers. By having dominion, wasn't some dominance factor but dominion means watch-care. So we're to be the overseers of what God entrusts to our watch-care, and stewardship should be a major emphasis in a church.

And we ought to put God first. We ought to put everything in the right priority order. And one part of the priority should be focused on others in a legitimate interest. We need to emphasize that. So to care about others, and when people in let's say political circles say we need to care about taking care of others and so forth, exactly right, we don't have any qualms there. The church above all should be saying that. But the

church basically has kind of given up the responsibility at even looking in realistic ways to meet the need because we've been told the government is going to cover that.

And after all, remember this, they take. The government doesn't make money, they take money. They do print money and diminish the value of yours but basically, it is our money. Do you understand that? It is ours. So if they have the money that we have then entrusted to their watch-care and they misuse it or abuse it or misapply it or spend what you put into social security with a hope for a future at a certain age and they've already used it up and it is not there, it is gone, and everything that we entrust to them is misused, I see that as a moral issue. I see it as a matter of stewardship. Am I wrong about that?

Doug: I think you're absolutely right.

James: So wouldn't we need to address that? And as I was saying that to you a while ago, I don't care if they call it political. Why should anybody say, "Well, if you say that that's political." Well, whose business is it to tell me that I can't address any issue of concern? Let me go ahead and make it clear, I'm going to. Did you understand? I'm going to. I won't be stopped. You say, "We'll lock you up." I'll do it there. I'll write letters from prison. Paul was very effective in doing that.

Doug: Call us before you get to prison.

[Laughter]

James: I'd really rather not write letters in prison. I'm trying to make the point, what if it does affect policy? When the policymakers are abusing what we've entrusted to their watch-care, when we have spent way beyond our means and then when we've got class warfare where we hate everybody who might produce jobs or produce wealth, we make them the primary enemy, something is wrong. You can say, I'm stirred up about this. I need to calm down.

Doug: No! You need to be stirred up about it.

James: The point is don't I have the right freedom and responsibility to speak forth concerning issues that matter?

Doug: You absolutely do without any fear of consequences from the government. Our first liberty is religious freedom. That's why it is first in our bill of rights.

James: Which includes the ability to preach.

Doug: It includes the ability to preach and preach as you are directed by God. And that means taking all of scripture and not having it censored by the A.C.L.U. or by the government or by the I.R.S. threatening you with your tax exempt status. We shouldn't care about that stuff. We should be concerned with being stewards of the truth. We have the answers. God's word provides us with the answers.

When people like you who are bold enough to speak into the culture and to share those ideas from God's word, they work. That's why the Alliance Defense Fund was formed because it wasn't that we were losing because we didn't have the better arguments, we were losing because we weren't showing up. But now we've got people --

James: Really, we didn't even have good legal representation because it looked like the legal cards were stacked against faith and freedom and family.

Doug: Well, whoever thought there would be 2,000 Christian attorneys that would come together for this kind of fight? We have 2,000 volunteer attorneys in our network in the United States and around the world that are fighting for these causes.

James: And you've represented effectively in a winning way as many cases before the Supreme Court I think as any other group.

Doug: We have had 38 cases before the Supreme Court that we have participated in with wins. And we recently had one that goes back to your issue about whose money is it? Parents have the best idea of where their children should be educated. Arizona had a tuition program where people could give to a tuition organization and they would turn and give scholarships so parents could send their kids to private schools, to charter schools, even Christian schools.

The A.C.L.U. said, "Wait a minute, you can't do that, that's government money." Because their premise was that it is government money until we let you keep it. Fortunately the Supreme Court got that one right and they said, "No, no, it is people's money until we tax it and hopefully we won't tax it too much."

James: If people want to support what you're doing, what do they do? Go on your web site?

Doug: The best thing for them to do is to go to our web site: TellADF.org and they can get information about all the issues that we're involved in from life issues to family value issues to education, university, all those things are on our web site. If they're concerned about their own rights, there is a place they can get legal assistance. We have a 1-800-number they can call. If teachers telling them they can't share their faith, they can call us and we will represent them for free.

The thing that has intimidated so many people is just the mere cost of it. Even if they're right and they can win, they can't afford the legal representation. Our ministry friends donate to the organization so that -- because if we win a case in Arizona, it is going to help parents send their kids to school in Georgia and New York and every place else. So these cases are important and people believe it and they get behind it with their generous donations.

James: So when I say you're defending faith, family and freedom -- real freedom, not license and liberty to do whatever you want to do that really hurts others. You're talking about the real liberty and freedom that our founders understood, which really, really implies personal responsibility. And you defend -- that's who you defend.

Doug: That's what we defend. Eisenhower said that a people that values its privileges more than its principles soon loses both. And we're at a place in this country where we are so engrossed in ourselves that we don't think about what we're doing to the future of our country. The reason I left my private practice is because I looked in the face of my ten year old son who couldn't understand why a mayor in San Francisco was issuing same sex marriage licenses. He said, "What are you going to do about it dad? You're a lawyer."

I thought, you know what? I've got to do something about it. It is my watch and it is our watch collectively and together we can win because truth always triumphs. We just have to keep the doors open for the truth. That's why elections are important, especially on the Supreme Court. We want to have men and women on that court that will honor the constitution and they will protect these fundamental values. We are engaged in those courtroom battles every day.

But the thing is, James, we believe that if we win everybody wins but if they win everybody loses. We're not fighting against them we're fighting for them because this is how we save America.

James: And there again you've just addressed something that is -- I see it as principle but it also carries over to political which the political aspect, the elected choose the

judges, those who serve for life. I could even challenge the term, life term. I think all these things we can bring to the table. I think we could have good healthy discussions. But the point is that there again we're back, Betty, to politics. I don't want Christians to dodge and say, "Christians shouldn't be in politics." We shouldn't be seen as a political power base but we should be seen as an influence in life on planet earth, a kingdom imprint, the footprints of the weight of God's presence and God's truth everywhere and that will affect the leadership, the people that we select to represent the principles that we not only value but are imperative for stability and security -- for economic soundness -- all these things.

So don't cringe at political and don't start trying to become a political party. Impact every political party with the principles of God. Does this make sense? Can you say "amen" to what I've said, Mr. Attorney?

Doug: Amen! Amen!

James: Do you appreciate the Alliance Defense Fund? Do you appreciate Doug? Hopefully you appreciated what I'm saying because really and truly, I'll be honest with you, if they didn't appreciate it, I'm not running for something. Most prophets were never invited back; they were never invited the first time.

Sometimes we do speak prophetically, meaning we address the issues and I'm going to do it. Let me just put the Alliance Defense Fund web site up there again to simply say to you, very, very important! Very important that you pray for them and pray about the issues they bring before you.

Alan Sears, who co-authored the book and helped with this incredible fund, this ministry impacted his life. Would you say that that was an important impact that a preacher and a ministry had on this man and this attorney?

Doug: No doubt about it. And Alan, who speaks very highly of you but his passion is to protect the kind of work that you're doing because he knows it is your work that we've got to protect. And it is the passion of the whole team, that's where our hearts are.

James: Thank you! You know what's so exciting? And here's the thing, the reason economic stability is important, Betty is because people who have nothing are not able to help people who have legitimate needs, hopeless, helpless.

I want you to listen. One of the things you're going to see here, you're going to see the son of our executive vice president that Betty, we watched him grow up from the time he was born. We saw him as a little baby. He's got five children! He's got the most beautiful family. You're going to hear him sharing his heart in the midst of suffering. You're going to hear the heart of God. But listen to me, you can be the answer to what he is talking about. This is incredible, watch closely.

On the mission field:

Kyle: Three times a day Voola goes down to this water source with her mom that is unbelievable. It is disgusting water filled with disease. You can't see two inches into this water. We watched cattle walking into this water, drinking it, defecating in it. People bathing down there, washing their laundry and then right there at that very same area Voola and all of these other people are scooping water out in the buckets and we watched them drink it right there. It's unbelievable the pollution that they're taking right into their bodies -- and they know that it is bad but they have no choice. Voola recently lost her 13 year old sister to contaminated water.

Kyle: Voola knows very well what the symptoms are of water-borne diseases because she watched it happen with her sister. She was there at her death bed helping to take care of her to the very end. Unfortunately, what is happening is Voola is starting to show some of the same symptoms. I can't imagine what it is like to have no choice but to continue to go back to that water three times a day, knowing that it took your sister, knowing that it is probably going to take your life too.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Boy, I want to say thank you, Lord for what I heard coming out of Kyle's heart. We led his mother to the Lord when she was a teenager many years ago and now Kyle, as he grew up with our youngest daughter in school and now he has five beautiful children. To listen to Kyle's heart -- Kyle, we want you to know we're so pleased with how we see Jesus in you, and your mother, Jeanne -- you've seen Jeanne on the mission field and where we're trying to rescue girls from this sex trafficking, and children. This is really a picture of the ministry that you make possible.

When you listen to Kyle talking about this precious girl losing her sister with that filthy water and know that we told the missionaries there and we told the people, we're going to give you a well, believing that our viewers would make it possible for us to do that because Betty, we can drill a well, you and I can help through the year

drill some wells, have a part in it but we can't drill the 400 that we've located where the need is so great. We've got to have the help of our viewers.

Betty: Not without your help! We want to do our part because it is so in our hearts to want to give them clean pure water to drink. Voola, she knew what happened to her sister. She knew what caused her sister illness and then later on to die. She seems to be smart enough to know that she is drinking that same water and it is likely to happen to her if she doesn't get the water that she needs, the clean water. James, we can do that with the water wells. We can give them a choice -- let's give them a choice for the clean water! What do you think they will choose?

James: You know she said she lost her best friend. I want to be honest with you, you're not only our best friend, of course we treasure our family and the relationship we have, but you are our best friends. You know what the missionaries say, in so many ways you are their best friend because you make it possible for them to do what they do. You make it possible for us to take the drilling equipment that people like you paid for, to drill those wells.

Right now we're targeting over 400 areas in 15 nations that are just like that, that's one of the areas. So if you can see that, she is representing all those other areas, all the other best friends whose lives we can save and give them a chance -- don't they deserve a chance at life? They will never have perhaps the nice things that we have but couldn't they at least be able to have a clean drink of water because we know the water of life? -- The love of God that we find in Christ.

Would you please right now dial that number? Take your bankcard and if you could possibly drill a well, listen -- \$48 will make it possible to give ten people water the rest of their life. Consider this; you could help give 30 people water the rest of their life with a gift of \$144. Could you do that? And then could you possibly drill a well?

We've got many people who say, "It is the joy of my life to write a \$4800 check." ...Or "to put it on my bankcard; use my card like a check." That's how you use them! Would you do that? Or could you give a part of a well? \$1200: Three join you and we've got a well. \$2400: Someone else joins you. Whatever level, you can help. Would you do it? Father, I pray every person watching would move right now to the phone or go online and make the gift you put on their heart. Thank you for doing it!

Remember you can if you like -- and I pray you're dialing the number. I pray you've got that card and you're going to help us give life and give hope. You can go to LifeToday.org and make your gift online. We have some gifts for you to bless you as

you give life and a chance to others in desperate need. Hey, give life to somebody's best friend, somebody's sister.

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 that 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. The suffering can end because clean water changes everything in life.

With your support we will drill 415 new water wells in remote villages in 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people! \$72 will reach 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

In appreciation for your gift to help drill these new wells be sure to request the Kingdom Life Journal. This beautiful leather bound prayer devotional includes both Psalms and Proverbs, as well as a place to write your own reflections as God speaks to you through his word.

Also please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request the journal as well as our beautiful commemorative bronze sculpture, "Heart of the Father."

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

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Thank you so much! Thank you for giving life. We want to send you the Kingdom Life Journal. One of the best things you can do is write down the impressions that come to you every day as God speaks to you. We've shared Proverbs and Psalms in the journal. It will be a blessing to you.

I want to mention again you can go to the Alliance Defense Fund. There is the web site. You might consider getting this very important book.

I want to say thanks again to Doug for coming and sharing with us. Would you join Betty and me in just thanking Doug Napier for coming to be with us? God bless you! Look forward to seeing you soon. We're going to be praying together for the things you care about, joining you in that hope for a very sound future pointing to him!