



## Broadcast Transcript

**Broadcast:** An Everyday Hero Using Radio to Spread the Gospel – Part 2

**Guest(s):** Rich Bott

**Air Date:** June 18, 2026

- Dr. James Dobson: Welcome everyone to Family Talk. It's a ministry of the James Dobson Family Institute, supported by listeners just like you. I'm Dr. James Dobson, and I'm thrilled that you've joined us.
- Roger Marsh: Well, welcome back to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh. On the last edition of our program, our own Gary Bauer, senior vice president of public policy here at the Dobson Policy and Culture Center, sat down with Rich Bott, President and CEO of the Bott Radio Network to hear the remarkable story behind three generations of Christian broadcasting. On today's Family Talk program, they'll pick back up on the incredible legacy that Rich's family has built and what it means to defend faith, family, and freedom on the airwaves in a nation that desperately needs to hear the truth. So let's get into today's edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk with Gary Bauer.
- Gary Bauer: Well, welcome back to Family Talk, my friends. We're here again for day two of our interview with Rich Bott of the famous Bott Radio Network. And I don't want to waste even a second. Let's get right into it, Rich.
- Rich Bott: Okay, thank you, Gary.
- Gary Bauer: You know, Rich, there are so many new technologies now, and there's all this stuff streaming and the rest of it. You know more than anybody that radio and Christian radio is not dead. I mean, it is still reaching. Countless people. Give me your thoughts on that.
- Rich Bott: Oh, well, yes, absolutely. Number one, we have a listener comment line and we love hearing from our listeners and hearing some powerful testimonies about how God has used Christian radio in their life. And there's lots of stories about how I just hopped into the car and it was tuned to the radio and there it was and it came on and it was just right what I needed to hear. And I call those divine appointments. And the Word of God is quick and powerful. It's sharper than any two-edged sword. It pierces even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow. The Lord's Word will accomplish the purpose for which it is sent. And so as long as we keep the focus on the Word of God and applying it in the days in which we live, the Lord will bless that and it'll prepare hearts to receive that. And we see that every day. Radio is still a powerful, powerful tool. There's a lot of new technologies, but radio is still, it's ubiquitous. It's everywhere. You can't get away from it.

Gary Bauer: And it's, I don't even know what the right adjective is. You know, if you're in your car driving or whatever, and you've got the radio on, that voice can feel like that person's right there with you when you're driving. And you're literally... you almost feel as you would if you were just looking across the table at them. And I remember, you know, during all the years that I did work with Dr. Dobson, how often, particularly mothers, would come up to him and say, "I had several children. My husband was traveling all the time. I was pressured. I didn't know how I was going to handle everything. And Dr. Dobson, your voice would come across that radio. when I was in my kitchen or in my living room. And it would put me at ease, and it made me feel like somebody understood what the challenges were that I was facing." And I think that's what radio as a medium does.

Rich Bott: It absolutely does. Even though you're talking to thousands and thousands of people, you're talking to them one at a time. And it's a very intimate medium. It communicates the gospel very effectively. And, of course, we know that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. So we like to emphasize that as we broadcast over the radio. But Dr. Dobson's vision for family ministry came at a time when the family was ignored and being supplanted, You know, in those early days when prayer was removed from schools, and he raised the alarm. And it's such a need today, and it continues for families that want to raise children in the way of the Lord. And that's part of the biblical commandment to nurture, bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. And Dr. Dobson's ministry over the many years, and we're so blessed to broadcast his ministry on Bott Radio Network, has been such a powerful force. I say our format is quality Bible teaching. with Christian news and information. And Dr. Dobson spans that quality Bible teaching because so often he talks about the Bible, but also then how to apply it in your daily life, in your family life.

Gary Bauer: You know, Rich, a little earlier in our conversation, you mentioned that we're really in a spiritual war. And of course, that's been the case since the fall in Eden, right? I mean, there's a force for good and a force for evil. That spiritual war goes on until the very end when good triumphs. And that's the thing as believers we all take comfort in. But as you know, Dr. Dobson felt very strongly that not only did we need to be in our churches praising God, not only did we need to stay in the Word, we needed to pray every day, but he also wanted us to be Christian citizens. And he would often use his radio show over the decades to educate Christians around the country about the things that were happening maybe in their state capital or in Washington, D.C., that would impact their religious liberty, their families, their children, and so forth. And Bott Radio was always standing with him in that. Sometimes there'd be pushback by other types of radio networks. Not at Bott. He was always very happy that your family and he were on the same page about Christian citizenship. And so let me ask you about that. The country's obviously in the middle of all kinds of challenges. And, you know, the years that I've been involved in this. I've never seen such divisions over fundamental issues, things that are hard to reconcile. So where

do you think we are as a nation, and do you think our best days are still ahead or not?

Rich Bott: That depends on what we do as believers and how we maintain fidelity to the founders. You know, this nation was founded on Christian principles and with certain understandings that we are created by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. And that's a wonderful legacy, but we have to fight for it each generation. I think Ronald Reagan famously said that freedom is only one generation removed from extinction.

Gary Bauer: Yes.

Rich Bott: And so just as the founding fathers fought for those principles, we need to be faithful in fighting for them in our generation as the Lord gives us the ability to do that. You know, the Bible talks about the gates of hell will not prevail against it. And when you think about that, that the gates are not an offensive weapon. It's a defensive weapon, but we're supposed to be storming the gates and advancing the kingdom of God and doing so in each generation, and the gates of hell will not be able to withstand that. So, we need to be faithful. But we also need to be informed as we engage in these arenas. And that's another part of what Christian radio is all about. And Family Talk is so faithful in doing that. And that's why it fills such an important role in our broadcast schedule, our broadcast day, is to have programming such as Family Talk and End of Day Report to fill that void.

And, you know, Dr. Dobson was such a visionary. He founded the Family Research Council that you're so very familiar with and the Alliance Defending Freedom and these various organization that he was so instrumental in. And we drink the water from wells, which we did not dig, and we eat the fruit from trees that we did not plant. And so we are beneficiaries of the legacy of people that went before.

Gary Bauer: You know, Rich, I think you probably remember this, but when I left the Reagan administration, Dr. Dobson and I had done enough things together that he mentioned to me that he wanted to start a Washington operation. And he had registered this Family Research Council. It only had a couple of employees, but he thought we could maybe make it something really effective. And so I flew out to see him, and I presented him a budget, and I thought he was going to pass out. He said, "Gary, I had no idea it would cost this amount of money." And so we prayed about it, and he gave a spiritually mature prayer, not the kind of prayer I wanted him to give. I wanted him to pray for the money. Instead, he prayed that if God wanted this to happen, He would open doors. And if He didn't want it to happen, the doors would stay shut. And I thought to myself, what kind of prayer is that? Well, I flew home a little depressed. I found out later that before the day was over, a businessman had unexpectedly dropped by. They had a conversation and one thing led to another and the gentleman ended up writing a check for the entire first year operation, except for \$1 of the

budget, and he told Jim to call me and tell me I was responsible for raising the rest, which was that \$1. So I felt like, you know, again, it was kind of a reaffirmation that when God is in something, whether it's the tremendous growth of Bott Radio or all the things that Dr. Dobson has built, the work we've been doing in Washington. If God's in it, it will work.

Rich Bott: Yes, and Gary, you mentioned something just right now that Christian radio is teamwork. And we can provide the radio platform for a ministry, powerful ministry, such as Family Talk. And we depend on the listeners to fund the ministry of Family Talk so it can afford to be on the radio and to be able to expand to more cities. So it's clearly a partnership between the broadcast platform and the radio ministry itself together with the radio listeners that listen and support the ministries such as Family Talk. Now, how do people get in touch with Family Talk if they feel like the Lord is leading them to support this ministry?

Gary Bauer: You need to go to [drjamesdobson.org](http://drjamesdobson.org) to get more information about our programs and Family Talk and about all the things we're doing along with Bott Radio to defend faith, family, and freedom.

Rich Bott: I just want to reaffirm that for all of our radio listeners that your role in this is critical to advance the kingdom of God and advance the ministry of Christian broadcasting to reach more and more people.

Gary Bauer: It is indeed, Rich. I want to go back to something that you brought up a little while ago on the fact that America was built on an idea, and you quoted in part the most important sentence in the American founding, which is in the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, where it says we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator, not by their government, but by their creator. And then it goes on to talk about the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Rich, most American kids do not know that sentence. I discovered this all the way back in 2000 when I was visiting schools, and I started asking classes or telling classes that if they could finish the sentence that began, we hold these truths to be self-evident, I would give the first student that could do that a \$20 bill. And I visited over 100 schools, and I gave out \$40.

Rich Bott: Oh, my.

Gary Bauer: And this is all the way back. in the year 2000. And the reason I think they don't know it is because the liberal teacher unions don't believe it. I mean, the very beginning, we hold these truths. Of course, the left and the secular left, they don't believe there's something called truth. And they certainly don't believe that liberty comes from God. America's doomed, you know, if we can't get back to that founding idea, particularly on our 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. And I know you believe it, and Bott Radio is dedicated to it. Talk to us a little bit more about the necessity to understand that no man is the source of our liberty. It comes from God himself.

Rich Bott: Justice of the Supreme Court Clarence Thomas recently gave a speech, and he talked about progressivism and the progressivist movement and how the progressives do not believe that these truths are self-evident. Our founders believed that everybody knows this, but the progressivist movement doesn't believe that these rights come from God. They believe somehow they come from government, and what government gives, government can take away. But we believe in the creator like our founders and that we are created in the likeness and image of God and God gave us these rights and they're God-given and government cannot give them and cannot take them away but government is designed to protect them and I believe what Clarence Thomas said in his speech was that you cannot separate the Declaration of Independence which declares these rights and the Constitution, which is written to protect these rights.

And so governments are instituted to protect these rights that are given by God. So that's a wonderful legacy that we've been given. And Christian radio can be used and should be used, in my view, to help to educate people about the Bible and how that they need to preserve and protect the religious liberties that we've been bequeathed by our forebears. And we need to be faithful in our generation so that we can pass on these liberties, these God-given liberties to the next generation as well. And so Family Talk is all about families and from one generation down to the next, raising the next generation up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. And I appreciate the fact that Family Talk has also been such a big supporter of Christian education and homeschooling. And even supporting teachers, Christian teachers in public schools who have a rough go of it these days. But that's such an important part of child rearing is being faithful to raising the next generation up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, whether they're in public schools, private Christian schools, or even homeschooled.

Gary Bauer: You know, Dr. Dobson, before he went home to be with the Lord, I feel blessed to be able to see many of the things that he promoted and believed in, like Christian education, Christian radio, educational choice, being able to have a voucher or get a tuition tax credit to help a family that wanted to avail themselves of that opportunity. And so all that work that he did, we're getting a lot of the fruit of those labors now, and it couldn't come at a better time when our country is so divided. And there's a serious effort underway in America, Rich, I know you're aware of this, to not only reject the idea that our liberty comes from God, but literally to go in the direction of socialism and even godless Marxism. We're seeing political figures rise around the country that reject everything that Bott Radio has been devoted to, that Dr. Dobson devoted his life to, and that I've spent virtually all of my adult life in Washington, D.C., working against.

Rich Bott: Right. You know, Gary, you mentioned going into schools and saying, We hold these truths to be self-evident and students can't finish that. But I wonder how many students today could actually recite the Pledge of Allegiance. I imagine

you grew up at a time like I did when you were in grade school and that was the way you started your school day is turning to the flag and along with over the intercom reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. That's such a tragedy that we have lost that, and that's why it's so important for parents to be able to instill that into children today.

Gary Bauer:

Yeah, you know, the critics would say, well, the Pledge of Allegiance never made anybody a patriot, and some little vague prayer in the morning never converted anybody to Christianity. But first of all, I think both of those points are wrong. But in addition to that, the lesson they taught by beginning the day with a little prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance was that adults thought that God and country were important enough that they wanted the child to focus on those two things at the beginning of the school day. So you're right. It's sad. That those things have been thrown overboard. And in many schools, the pledge is supposed to still be used, but in many schools, there's a defiance and a refusal to do it.

Rich, you've got a tremendous legacy. I know your mom and dad are getting up in years, but they've got to be proud as you took over the reins of Bott Radio. Quite frankly, there's some other great networks out there. But I can't imagine all that's happened in the Christian world over these decades without the involvement, the active involvement of Bott Radio and bringing these messages about the gospel, but also about Christian citizenship, probably to virtually uncountable millions of people if you added it all up over the years.

Rich Bott:

Well, we'll never know until we get to Heaven. And we're just trusting the Lord for that. But we know that His word will not return void. And so we're committed to using every technology that we can to advance His kingdom by proclaiming the Word of God. And we're blessed to partner with so many of God's choice servants and broadcast ministries of which Family Talk is a key partner and has been from the very beginning. Can I give one more shout out? I want to thank Jim and Shirley Dobson, Dr. Dobson and Shirley, for bringing my wife to me. And I was married late in life, and my wife was single, and she was married late in life to me. It was Dr. Dobson and Shirley that brought us together. My wife, Faye, worked with Dr. Dobson at the broadcast ministry and then also with Shirley at the National Day of Prayer, the years when Shirley was in charge of that. And that's the year I got my first invitation to come to the Washington event at the National Day of Prayer. My new friend that I had met was instrumental in that. So I just thank the Lord for the impact that Dr. Dobson and Shirley have had in my life in more ways than one.

Gary Bauer:

You know, Rich, you surprised a lot of us. I mean, I was convinced you were a confirmed bachelor and that, you know, for whatever reason. And I thought, it's a shame because, you know, you're a great family values guy. But then I got the opportunity to meet Faye around the time that you got married, and she's a wonderful lady. And you make a great team. And it's good to know that Jim and Shirley played a role in all of that.

Rich Bott: Yes, they sure did. People said, “Well, I thought you were a bachelor till the rapture.” Well, no, that's not exactly. I was just willing. I wanted to follow the Lord's leading in my life. And that's what I found in my wonderful wife, Faye. And I'm so blessed to be married to her now.

Gary Bauer: Well, that's a wonderful way, Rich, to end our time with you. These shows have been fantastic. God bless you for all that you and the Bott family have done over many decades in defense of faith, family, and freedom. All of us at Family Talk at the James Dobson Family Institute are proud to be on the same team with you, and we look forward to many good days ahead for the gospel and for our country.

Rich Bott: Let me thank you, Gary, and the team there at Family Talk for continuing Dr. Dobson's legacy with this broadcast ministry and may god bless you and may god bless Family Talk. We're so proud to partner together with you.

Gary Bauer: Thank you, Rich. God bless

Roger Marsh: Three generations of faithful broadcasting. That's the incredible legacy of the Bott family and Bott Radio Network. And on today's edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, our own Gary Bauer, senior vice president of public policy here at the Dobson Policy and Culture Center, sat down with Rich Bott of Bott Radio Network to share more of that legacy. To hear today's program again or to share it with a friend, visit [jdfi.org](http://jdfi.org). Dr. James Dobson spent decades championing the family of human life and the biblical principles this nation was built upon. And when you support the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, you're helping carry that legacy forward so the next generation can hear the same timeless truth that has strengthened families for decades. We invite you to partner with us today at [jdfi.org](http://jdfi.org). You can also call a member of our constituent care team at 877-732-6825. That's 877-732-6825.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh, and on behalf of all of us here at Family Talk and the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute, thanks so much for listening today. Be sure to join us again next time right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.

With today's Dr. Dobson Minute, here's Dr. James Dobson.

Dr. James Dobson: You know, I'm told that when I was a very small child, maybe two years of age, my family lived in a one-bedroom apartment, and my little bed was located beside the bed of my parents. My father said it was very common during that time for him to awaken at night to a little voice that was whispering, “Daddy. Daddy.” My father would answer quietly, “What, Jimmy?” And I would say, “Hold my hand.” He said later that the instant he had my hand firmly in his grip, My arm would become limp and my breathing deep and regular. Until the day he died, I continued to reach for him; for his assurance, for his guidance, but

mostly just to know that he was there. You see, a dad occupies a place in a child's heart that no one else can satisfy. So to all the men out there who are blessed to be called fathers, I urge you to be there for the little ones in your life who call you dad.

Roger Marsh:

For more information, visit [drdobsonminute.org](http://drdobsonminute.org).