



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Unshaken Faith

Guest(s): Sally Burke

Air Date: July 24, 2024

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Dr. James Dobson: Well, hello everyone. I'm James Dobson, and you're listening to Family Talk, a listener supported ministry. In fact, thank you so much for being part of that support for James Dobson Family Institute.

Roger Marsh: Well, welcome to Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh. In Psalm 16, verse 8 we read, "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand I will not be shaken." In our nation we have seen the destruction of marriages and families, some people struggling with addictions and abuse, and when these problems impact families and children, whether intentional or not, they can be passed down and repeated from one generation to the next. As a result, the faith and morals of our youth seem to be vanishing, and that must be radically changed, and the most powerful weapon that we have in this fight is prayer.

Now today here on Family Talk we're going to hear a program that was recorded a few years ago but is still very relevant today. Joining Dr. Dobson in studio is his guest, Sally Burke, the president of Moms in Prayer International, and author of the book called *Unshaken*. They'll be discussing Sally's unlikely journey to being involved in this ministry and the incredible answers to prayer that she and other moms have witnessed and why they see the need for this book. Well, now let's join Dr. James Dobson and his guest, Sally Burke, right here on Family Talk.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, hello everyone. You're listening to Family Talk. I'm Dr. James Dobson, and I want to take those of you who have been listening to me and our programs for at least 15 or 20 years, and will remember I hope a series of programs that we did with a woman named Fern Nichols. She was the founder and president of an organization called Moms in Touch. Then it went on to become Moms in Prayer, and Fern taught tens of thousands of women to meet regularly to pray for their children and for their schools, and it caught on. I had the privilege of playing a role I think in helping to publicize the early efforts of this organization and to draw a lot of women to the ministry and to that work, and it grew like Topsy.

Fern has become a great friend of this ministry, and like I say, I did everything I could to help. Now I have the privilege of introducing her successor to this ministry. It's still going strong. It's an international ministry. We're going to hear about that, and I want our guest to catch us up, if you will, on Fern's activities

and what's happening in the ministry now. With us is Sally Burke, who is the successor to Fern. Sally, welcome to the ministry.

Sally Burke: Thank you, Dr. Dotson. It's a great joy to be with you, and Fern sends her love to you and says hi. She's doing wonderful. In fact she still speaks for our ministry. She comes in on Thursday-

Dr. James Dobson: She's a great speaker. She really is.

Sally Burke: Oh, she's a great speaker, and the vision and mission continues on. What she has passed on we continue, toward two or more moms for every school so every child around the world can be prayed for.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, describe for us where the ministry is now and what's going on. It is international. How many countries is it in?

Sally Burke: 146 countries.

Dr. James Dobson: Really?

Sally Burke: Yeah.

Dr. James Dobson: Is that right? Going back to the late '80s or early '90s, I would not have believed it would've grown that fast and that far. It's obvious that there are millions of women out there who really believe in prayer and know that the only protection for their kids in the kind of world we live in is to be on our knees before the Lord on their behalf. That's what you're trying to do, isn't it?

Sally Burke: That's right. God has a great plan for this next generation. It's not by surprise that our kids are here in this generation for such a time as this and they're doing a tremendous battle. We must pray for them. We must continue to battle for the lives of the kids, a tremendous battle when we think about it for the souls of the children.

Dr. James Dobson: Are the parents anxiety ridden over what's happening in the schools with the shootings, the violence, and other things that are taking place there?

Sally Burke: Yes. Even Christians can be shaken, but yet when they go to the Lord in prayer, they can stand unshaken as they unload His power through prayer.

Dr. James Dobson: As a matter of fact, you've written a book by that name, and I want you to explain it. It is titled *Unshaken: Experience the Power and Peace of a Life of Prayer*. Tell me what the word unshaken means in this context.

Sally Burke: Oh, my goodness. You know, as I was witnessing even Christians being shaken in this world as they are seeing what's going on, I had to share with them what I get to see. You see, I get a bird's eye view of what God's doing all over the world

as people take our four simple but powerful steps of prayer, women in the most hopeless situations empowered through prayer, and they're impacting their children, who are impacting others for Christ. I'm watching five-

Dr. James Dobson: Now describe it. They come together off school grounds usually, right?

Sally Burke: Yes. Yes. Unless it's a private school, then they're on the campuses. They meet just one hour once a week. That's all the Lord needs. They come together one hour once a week and they pray. They just don't talk about prayer, but they actually pray. They begin with praise. Then-

Dr. James Dobson: This is not a coffee club?

Sally Burke: It's not a coffee club.

Dr. James Dobson: You don't come together to gossip a little bit and have a good time seeing with your friends. You go there on your knees and pray.

Sally Burke: Yeah. God tells us to enter His throne room boldly and confidently to find mercy and help in our time of need, so we're entering into His throne room. We're in a tremendous battle, and victory is found on our knees. The weakest saint praying defeats the enemy every time.

Dr. James Dobson: I want to know a little bit about your background. You were with NASA. You're sort of a statistician or an analyst, a data analyst. Is that what you did?

Sally Burke: Well, my degree is out of the School of Business and Quantitative Analysis, Computers and Calculus.

Dr. James Dobson: Where?

Sally Burke: At University of Florida. That was fun. Go Gators. And what they did was they came and brought me and made me an engineer on the space shuttle, so I became an engineer. Math, you can be anything. So what we did, before the shuttle took off we tested everything. So I worked with the computers on board. I worked with the computers that tested. I made sure everything was ready for launch day.

Dr. James Dobson: You're kind of a rare bird, aren't you? For a woman to do that?

Sally Burke: Yeah. Did you see Hidden Figures?

Dr. James Dobson: I think I did. Yes.

Sally Burke: Those were my predecessors. These women were mathematicians.

Dr. James Dobson: Yes, I did see that. That's a good movie.

Sally Burke: That's a good movie. And those computers that they were just about to work on, I got to work on those.

Dr. James Dobson: Really?

Sally Burke: Yeah. Yeah. So it was fantastic. It was an incredible time I think in American history as we sent the shuttles up.

Dr. James Dobson: And men were very skeptical that women could do that job, especially minority women, and they really gave them a hard time, and then they proved themselves. It really is an uplifting movie.

Sally Burke: Yes. Yes. Yes. There were only five of us women engineers at that plant at that time, and it was exciting, you know?

Dr. James Dobson: Did you take that kind of pressure?

Sally Burke: Oh, yeah. You were always there. You had to prove yourself.

Dr. James Dobson: Did you find men looked down on you?

Sally Burke: Oh, yes. Yes. You had to learn not to take it personal. If you went to a meeting and everybody's yelling at you, you just didn't take it personal. You just went back and proved them wrong.

Dr. James Dobson: And you did.

Sally Burke: Yes. Yeah.

Dr. James Dobson: How long were you there?

Sally Burke: I was there five years, until I had my first child. After about a year later I came home. I decided that anybody could work on the space shuttle, but not anybody could raise my child.

Dr. James Dobson: So how does a data analyst for NASA find herself in a prayer movement? How long were you with Fern in that responsibility?

Sally Burke: I had been since 1990 in Moms in Prayer. In the very first meeting I ever went to I knew that God blesses our children through prayer. That's the avenue God has chosen to bless us. We have not because we asked not. So I heard about prayer group and I went to it. Well, little did I know you had to pray out loud. I did not know how to pray.

Dr. James Dobson: You had never done that?

Sally Burke: No. I asked God teach me to pray, and how does God answer that prayer? He has me go to a Moms in Prayer group, and that group was so good to me. They were praying out loud and I just sat there silently. I was in the very presence of God. As they praise God, God enters the presence of his people.

Dr. James Dobson: I tell you, Fern knows how to pray, doesn't she?

Sally Burke: Yes. Yes. But everybody there short, simple prayers. So if you've never prayed before come to Moms in Prayer and you're going to learn how to pray. It's going to forever change and touch your life forever, and then your children's lives. And then each one on that school campus life will be changed as you pray.

Dr. James Dobson: Have you seen miracles?

Sally Burke: Yeah. In fact, the first miracle I ever saw was my first grade teacher for my son, I dropped him off and she says, "Oh, you're in that Moms in Touch at that time, Moms in Prayer group. Will you pray? There's a little boy who's very sick. They don't think he's going to make it through the weekend." And I said, "Yes, we'll pray." So I went back to our group and we prayed for this little boy. On Monday morning I rushed into her. I said, "Tell me, tell me, how is he?" And she says, "Well, he's healed." And I'm like, "Wow, how'd that happen?" And she says, "You prayed."

And so that was my very first miracle, but I saw miracle after miracle. Pretty soon we saw our kids so favored on that campus, our Moms in Prayer kids. They're all lined up getting awards, and my heart was burdened for every other child sitting there, and I said, "Oh, Lord, may each one of these kids hear the good news. May they hear it." And so what does God bring on our elementary school campus but a good news club, children evangelism. Over a hundred kids would come each month and they would receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Today they're pastors, they're teachers, they're lawyers. They are now impacting this generation. And then 14 of our 22 teachers we prayed for on this elementary school have come to know Jesus Christ.

Dr. James Dobson: No kidding?

Sally Burke: Yes. It's just amazing.

Dr. James Dobson: Give us your journey, your spiritual journey. When did you become a Christian?

Sally Burke: You know what? I don't even know the year. My husband came home one day from work... I was a stay at home mom, and we were greeting him in the door. I had a baby on this hip and one holding onto my leg, and he says, "Sally, I was listening to John MacArthur on the radio and I had to pull over. I just received Jesus Christ as my Lord and my Savior." And-

Dr. James Dobson: Had you been praying together or-

Sally Burke: Nothing.

Dr. James Dobson: There was anything going on in your family that would've led to this?

Sally Burke: Somebody was praying for us, that I do know. I don't know who it was. When I get to Heaven I'll know, but it was obvious somebody was praying for us. And when my husband said that, I said, "Whoa." I'm thinking in my mind my husband is working too hard, something's wrong, something. But for the next few months he walked in this peace and this strength. He could say no to the things of the world, and you just witness it. So that Christmas... I was used to getting diamonds or different things. Well, he bought me a Bible and I thought, okay, and he was telling me how he prayed over what Bible to get me.

Dr. James Dobson: You were not thrilled over the gift?

Sally Burke: No. I was surprised to say the least over that gift. And I remember opening it up and I remember reading at the beginning of it, and this person would begot this person. I thought, well, I'll go to Psalms. And I thought whoever wrote this book is brilliant. He's making the most incredible truth so simple. It's just like a great calculus teacher. It was amazing. And then my husband goes, "Why don't you read the Book of John?" And there I saw that Jesus was God, and there I surrendered my life to him. And then I began to listen to the radio-

Dr. James Dobson: And you don't remember what year that was?

Sally Burke: I don't remember what year that was.

Dr. James Dobson: Sally, I remember I found the Lord in 1940. You don't remember yours?

Sally Burke: No, because nobody explained it to me. Nobody said, "Oh, you're a Christian now." Nobody explained that to me. All I did was I began to read the Bible every day. I began to... It took us about a year to go to church. Some pastor came knocking on our door. He comes and he goes, "I'd like to invite you to my church." I said, "Well, come in. Tell me about your church. Do you believe in the Bible?" And then we started going to church, so it was God's journey for me.

Dr. James Dobson: Has he remained faithful-

Sally Burke: Oh God-

Dr. James Dobson: ... to the Lord?

Sally Burke: Oh, my husband?

Dr. James Dobson: Yes.

Sally Burke: Yes. Yes, he has. Yeah.

Dr. James Dobson: And the two of you have been married how long?

Sally Burke: We have been married 34 years now.

Dr. James Dobson: How did you get from the work you were doing in NASA to this responsibility? First you join Fern in Moms in Touch. I'll always call it that, even though it's Moms in Prayer. And now you have taken over that responsibility. How'd the Lord let you know that this is what he wanted you to do?

Sally Burke: Well, he surprised me at every single step of the way. I remember I was a leader for about a year. I went to a leader's meeting and I offered to help, I thought by bringing cookies, and then they made me a contact person. That was the next level up. And then next thing I knew I was an area coordinator, and God just kept surprising me, and I kept witnessing Him answer prayer. Wherever we were at, God kept raising up leadership and kept impacting the schools and the children for Christ.

And pretty soon Fern called me to headquarters and she said, "I would like you to work with the women around the world." Now I only speak one language, and I don't speak that very well at all. And I said, "Fern, well, I'll have to pray about it." And God taught me so much as I began to work with our international women around the world, to see their faith, to see these courageous women. I mean some of them live on garbage dumps. Some of them live in mud huts. Yet when you give them the gift of prayer-

Dr. James Dobson: Really? You're reaching the third world countries?

Sally Burke: Oh, yes. We're all throughout South America, Africa, throughout Europe. We're in about every continent there is, so we only have a few more countries to go and we'll be in every country. But, yes, one of the first woman I worked with, she came from Rwanda, and when she was a young mom there in Rwanda she lost her two kids during the time of genocide there in Rwanda. She comes here to the United States, she has two more kids, learns about Moms in Prayer. She takes it back to Rwanda and she begins to teach these women how to pray, not fight between the tribes, but how to come together and pray.

Within a few years after she did that we had a key leader there who said, "Sally, we will no longer be known as a nation of genocide. We will be known as a nation of prayer." I mean they began to just really open my eyes to what God can do when we pray. When we unleash His power to do His will through prayer, He could do great and mighty things.

Dr. James Dobson: Do people find the Lord through that ministry?

Sally Burke: Many, many, many people.

Dr. James Dobson: So they come not really knowing... Like you, didn't know how to pray?

Sally Burke: Well, I didn't know how to pray, but I did... We have a statement of faith, so they do know the Lord. They accept is Jesus and God one? Yes. Is the Bible the inherent Word of God? Yes. So they must agree to that. And some of them truly find out who God is. In Moms in Prayer you get to know Him by name, by attribute, by character. These women become transformed. It's like those who know the name of the Lord will be strong and do great exploits. As they get to know who God is according to His Word, all of a sudden, they become just courageous women filled with the Holy Spirit. And then as they pray out God's word they witness God answering prayer for them.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, let's talk to the woman who has children at home. She is not real sure who she is. She doesn't sense a mission or responsibility. She's heard about Christ but didn't really know who He is or what he taught or what He came to do. And maybe they also might be lonely.

Sally Burke: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: All right. What do you say to that woman about looking up a Moms in Prayer group and becoming involved in the fantastic mission of this ministry?

Sally Burke: There's a wonderful sisterhood just waiting for you. You'll never feel alone. You know what? We have a lot of single moms who join us too, and their burden is heavy. They're heroes to me as they're raising their kids and trying to raise their kids unto Christ. Well, they have sisters just waiting for them. You just think about the story of Moses, the children of Israel out there on the battlefield battling. Well, our children are battling, and Moses, as long as his arms were up interceding for the children of Israel they were winning.

Well, his arms got tired, so Aaron and Hur came beside him and lifted up his arms, and the children of Israel were victorious. Well, every week when you come to a Moms in Prayer group there are Aaron and Hurs come alongside of you. They fall in love with your kids. They pray for your kids. They battle for your kids. I've been with the same group of women for over 20 years and we continue to pray for those kids. We're never going to give up hope. We know God has a great plan for them. God, who began a good work in them, will complete it until the day of Christ. So they don't want to miss out.

This is lifetime friendship when you're in Moms in Prayer, and it's an incredible journey. You will grow in confidence. Your kids will be blessed. You won't feel lonely anymore. You'll know who God is, and you'll know who you are in Christ, and you'll know and understand the plans that God has for you and for your children are for good, to give you a future and to give you a hope.

Dr. James Dobson: When you gather together do you pray for a specific school or specific children?

Sally Burke: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: Explain what one of those sessions is like.

Sally Burke: Okay. Well, as soon as you come in that leader's going to start on time. She's going to say, "Welcome to my group. Here's a prayer sheet." And then you're going to look at a name of God. You'll look up maybe three scriptures. Like it would say God is all present, and you'll look up the Scriptures that go with that, or that He's sovereign and nothing's too hard, nothing's impossible. And then you'll take a few minutes of praise.

And then you'll go to a time of silent confession. You don't want anything to hold back your prayers. And then you have what I call a Holy Spirit party. You have a time of thanksgiving, where you hear prayer after prayer after prayer being answered, and then you intercede on behalf of one of your children. You bathe them in prayer, like, "May Ryan love God with all his heart, with all his mind, with all his soul, with all his strength, and love others as he loves himself." Another mom comes along aside and agrees. Where two or more agree in His name His will is done.

Dr. James Dobson: That must be something to behold. Do visitors ever come in and watch and listen?

Sally Burke: We have a lot of new moms who come that want to find out about Moms in Prayer, so we welcome them into our group. And they're probably like me, who did not pray out loud for a while. I sat there in the midst of it and witnessed this going on. And then we pray for a teacher. We don't talk about the teachers. We pray for the teachers. That's why so many teachers at our elementary school came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior, because we prayed for them. And then we pray for the children on the campus. We ask for revival and spiritual awakening. My daughter, in her senior year in a high school, witnessed 91 kids come to know Jesus Christ.

Dr. James Dobson: You don't mean it?

Sally Burke: Yeah. And then they kept adding to their numbers. We prayed for Aubrey and her friends, that they would not only love Jesus, but they would impact others for Christ, and so they, themselves, started to pray for their fellow students. They even started a Bible study. And sure enough, when there was a big outreach 91 kids came to know Jesus and they started going to this Bible study. I remember asking my daughter, "What are you teaching them?" And she goes, "Well, we're going through the Book of Romans, line upon line." And they kept adding to the numbers. And it's been six years ago, and they still have that Bible study. Kids are still coming to know Jesus on that school campus.

You see, we have not if we ask not, we must come together for this next generation. We must pray. We must build that wall of fire around those schools and his glory be within those schools. I've had non-Christian principals tell me they feel the difference when a Moms in Prayer group is on their campus or not.

Dr. James Dobson: You can see why when I first heard of this concept and got acquainted with Fern and I saw what she was trying to do, my heart was really drawn to it, and I just said this is a good thing, and it has been. I mean it started off as a little bitty thing, and then it just grew and grew and grew. How many individual chapters or units do you have?

Sally Burke: Yeah. We can't even keep count. We know we have over 100,000 women, but that's counting leadership. And so there may be 25 in a group, there may be only two in a group, so we literally do not know how many women that we have in Moms in Prayer. And I want you to think about this, Dr. Dobson, when Fern first started Moms in Touch at that time, which is Moms in Prayer now, she was one shaken mom. Her two kids were in middle school, so she grabbed another shaken mom and they began to pray.

Dr. James Dobson: It was divinely inspired, there isn't any question about it. How do they find out in France and Germany and other places around the world? How does that word spread?

Sally Burke: In multiple ways. Our women so love Moms in Prayer, they realize they've been given a gift to be part of Moms in Prayer, so when they go travel to another country they take our booklets with them and they go share it. Also our website, momsinprayer.org, many type in prayer or children, and they find out and they contact us. And we have key leadership all throughout the world. We have 60,000 volunteers. These are volunteers. These are moms that want to gather women together so that they can impact children in schools for Christ.

Dr. James Dobson: You're excited about it, aren't you?

Sally Burke: I love it. You asked me the last time... You said, "Do I miss the excitement of working on the shuttle?" I mean it was tremendous to watch the shuttle take off, but there's nothing like watching a woman's life transform, watching her children's lives transform, watching prodigals not only come home, but become pastors, become missionaries. There's nothing like that in the world.

Dr. James Dobson: Sally, I congratulate you.

Sally Burke: Oh, thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: Thank you for having the courage to take on a new responsibility, one that didn't have the status that you had as an engineer for NASA, and maybe not the dramatic events when the shuttle blasted off, but the Lord is working in your life and it's on your face, and I appreciate your doing this, and I'll just pick up where we left off with Fern.

Sally Burke: Yes. Yes. Yeah. And Fern's doing well, speaking, and doing well. She's my mentor still. Still prays for me. Still-

Dr. James Dobson: You give her our love, will you?

Sally Burke: I will, Dr. Dobson. Thank you so much for this opportunity to be with you, and we thank the Lord for what you're doing. You're a part of what God's doing around the world.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, that's what we're here for too. We're on the same team, aren't we?

Sally Burke: Yes, we are.

Dr. James Dobson: Come back and see us, will you?

Sally Burke: We will. Thank you.

Roger Marsh: Well, God really can do some magnificent things when we come together in prayer, can't he? Well, if you'd like to share today's broadcast with a fellow mom, we encourage you to go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. On our website you can click the link at the bottom of the page to learn more about Moms in Prayer, and also to find out how you can get involved with a group near you.

You know, most people consider being a mom to be an amazing privilege, and it really is, but just as often it's also one of the toughest jobs on the planet. That's why every mom deserves our appreciation and respect. And just for moms here at the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute we've created a free five minute "Empowering Mom Series" to provide practical parenting advice, packed with timeless scriptural truths, along with a prayer to encourage and inspire you and your family each and every day.

Now it's free to receive. To get yours all you have to do is go to our broadcast page at drjamesdobson.org/familytalk, and click the link at the bottom of the page there for the "Empowering Moms Series," five minutes of daily inspiration from Dr. James Dobson and the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute. Again, go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk and click the link at the bottom of today's broadcast page.

Well, I'm Roger Marsh. Thanks so much for making Family Talk a part of your day. Be sure to join us again tomorrow right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

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