

# SOUTH DAKOTA FALLEN HERO



*Your  
Memory  
lives on in  
our hearts.*



*In Loving Memory*

*Chaplain, CPT Dale A. Goetz*



*White, SD*

*US Army*

*2-24-1967 to 8-30-2010*

*Afghanistan*

## **One Woman's Journey of Grief and Hope**

Christy Goetz interviewed by Dr. James Dobson- March 2011

Some excerpts from that interview are as follows:

Every military family prays that the following will never occur: Two uniformed men knock on the door and relate the news that a loved one has been killed in the line of duty. On today's program we'll hear a message of hope from a woman who recently faced this scenario.

**Dr. James Dobson:** This program is to bring honor to the military of the United States. I can identify with the loneliness of separation when we left my father at train stations as an evangelist. It was difficult for my mother and child to carry on for six weeks but in the military it is a year or longer. We have a huge debt to those that volunteer and put their lives on the line. We want to honor today the spouses, especially in raising the children. Christy Goetz's husband Chaplain Dale Goetz, in 2004, signed up for the second time (the first being 1986 entering the US Air Force) but this time to minister (in the US Army). Last year, 2010, he deployed a second time and now we will get acquainted to Christy Goetz.

**Christy Goetz:** I feel privileged to be here on your show. In 1991 Dale and I got acquainted while we were in college. I met him through some girlfriends. That semester during chapel, I was led to change my relationship with a young man I had been dating. I was raised in a Christian home and had accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior at age 8. Dale became a believer at age 18. While serving at Lowry Air Force Base, Dale felt led to attend Bible College in Watertown, Wisconsin.

**Dr. James Dobson:** I understand you both fell in love and got married.

**Christy Goetz:** Yes, we got married in 1994. After graduation from college and seminary, he became a pastor in South Dakota. During our three years there, he felt called to become a chaplain. I was afraid for him to go. It was during the time of Saddam's fall in Iraq. Dale continued to pray that I would accept his desire to serve. He kept quiet about his desire for six months; then during a conversation I told him, "Who am I to stand in God's way?" I prayed and found the peace that I needed to be behind him.

**Dr. James Dobson:** He could be deployed?

**Christy Goetz:** I knew he could be called to war. It took me awhile to find peace. He passed the PT test that allowed him to serve as a chaplain. He loved the ministry of the military.

**Dr. James Dobson:** You just told him it worried you to have him deployed.

**Christy Goetz:** Yes, we said goodbye in the kitchen. He was sober, and I took a picture of him. He got into the Bronco and drove away.

**Dr. James Dobson:** He was gone one year I understand.

**Christy Goetz:** Yes, he came home for rest and relaxation in Washington for two weeks. Our boys had a great time with him during that week. During that first deployment, he was gone eleven and one half months. (That was 2004- 2005.) We arrived at Fort Carson in January

2010. In August, he went to Afghanistan for his second deployment. It had been almost five years since he had deployed the first time. The day he deployed was Sunday, so we went to church before he left. The hymn, "Take My Life and Let It Be" was sung. I was crying since the words of the hymn were so real to me. I couldn't sing. "Glorify God no matter what," I kept thinking. We got home, and I got out the trimmer since he wanted his hair cut. The boys each helped and I finished what was left. He grabbed his last bag, and we dropped him off at the gym and said, "Goodbye."

**Dr. James Dobson:** I have the utmost respect for those that serve. Yesterday, Christy Goetz shared about her husband Dale who gave the ultimate sacrifice when he was killed by a roadside bomb while in a convoy. We have a memory of a good man and a very courageous wife, mother of three sons Landon, Caleb and Joel.

Christy now will share some things with us.

**Christy Goetz:** I opened the door and two military soldiers dressed in blue and green were standing there. "Mrs. Goetz?" they said. I touched them. "Is he gone?" I said. It was hard for them. The boys would be coming home from school soon. Landon came in first with "Hi Mom!" I said, "Hi." He saw the soldiers and said, "Was Daddy killed?" Caleb came in next and said the same thing. I just held them. "Where is the best place to be?" They both said, "Heaven." I said, "That is where Daddy is." We all cried.

**Dr. James Dobson:** Did the military messengers help you?

**Christy Goetz:** Yes, they explained to me what had happened as well as they could.

**Dr. James Dobson:** Is it true, he was the first chaplain killed in the line of duty since Oct. 1970 in Vietnam?

**Christy Goetz:** Yes. Soon, Dale's family came and my family also. My mother helped me so much as I was in shock.

**Dr. James Dobson:** Were you ever bitter?

**Christy Goetz:** No, God is doing more than we ever could have imagined. Dale was my best friend and we were very close. There are many challenges in single parenting but the boys are doing well. They really miss him.

**Dr. James Dobson:** My book--When God Doesn't Make Sense may address this time. Christy, God really loves you and your boys. Things happen to many families but we know God loves us. He is not going to abandon you. God values faith and he knows the needs of your sons.

**Christy Goetz:** God reminded me to be content and that he had planted me here on earth.

**Dr. James Dobson:** Christy, please tell us what the life of a chaplain especially in war is like.

**Christy Goetz:**

1. Be with your soldiers, get to know them and their hearts.
2. Go to PT with the soldiers.
3. Stay out in tents and go through things to train with them.
4. Win people to Christ and so much more

I received an email from Dale two weeks before he died: "I'm in Afghanistan. Christ is the focus. Had a soldier come to Christ last night? It is cool, only 299 soldiers to go! I have a song in my heart and I am so pumped telling you about it! Never doubt God. I love and miss you. Dale (xoxo's)"

**Dr. James Dobson:** Please speak to wives waiting for their spouses to come home.

**Christy Goetz:** Remember Proverbs 3:5-6. As a military wife, you can create fear and stress out. It doesn't work to fear.

**Dr. James Dobson:** Hard loss at age 40.

**Christy Goetz:** I think back to before Dale left as we talked about the house rules and about finances. Dale said, "When it is our time, it is the time." With all of life's disappointments and losses, my God lives and reigns and will carry me through.

**Dr. James Dobson:** What has helped you Christy?

**Christy Goetz:** Friends who I have met abroad that e-mailed me or called to talk. Cards from people I never even met and peoples' prayers. The Lord is a Father to the Fatherless and Protector of the widow. God has provided comfort, monetary help, and relationships. The day after Dale was killed; I received an email from Frank, a friend and soldier of Dale's. He had spoken to Dale the evening before he died. He related that they had talked about God's Word and their hope for a six month deployment and desire that the remaining 299 soldiers would come to know God. He told me that Dale was excited about his last service. Dale had said that it is easy to love and pray for our enemies in the states but harder over there. He ended the email with, "Dale is now in Heaven."

**Dr. James Dobson:** Christy, I have an assignment for you. Go tell the world about this. Many people are hurting and there are many widows out there and they are not all military. This is a ministry for you. It is hard but do you sense that as a divine assignment?

**Christy Goetz:** We will see. I am working on a book--God has worked in this tragedy, and I pray it will continue to bring others to Him.

Ephesians 3:14-21



### Daddy's One Year Anniversary in Heaven

Written by Caleb Goetz while sitting at school during devotions - 8/30/2011

My daddy loved me so  
I wish he wouldn't have to go  
He laughed and played with me and also loved me.  
I wish I could see him now but now it seems I know  
What really happened to the one  
Who loved me so  
My dad was kind and generous  
Kind and Gentle  
God knows what is right  
So he let my dad's life come to Him  
So He took my daddy up to Heaven.