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Dying to Believe

To anyone who knew him, Lawrence Hughes had everything most of us hope for... until the day in 2002 when it would all come to an end.

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Dying to Believe

When I first met Lawrence Hughes a little more than a decade ago, Bethany was already dead. And he was still making headlines across Canada.

I sought him out over his decision to ask the Court to have his daughter transfused against her own, her mother's and their church's wishes. He was the only person ever to take the church to court over their blood doctrine and teaching. To me, he was an unlikely warrior, that guy you just don't imagine will take up a cause or wage a fight against forces larger than him.

Lawrence won the first round of the battle when the Court ordered the transfusions and 24/7 supervision of Bethany to shield her from religious pressure.

But, in the end, he lost everything else including, as I said, Bethany herself

This is his backstory...

Lawrence Hughes had a wife, three healthy kids, a job, a house, and lots of friends from church. An unremarkable life, it was nonetheless a good and comfortable one.

That is, until that day when his middle daughter Bethany left their breakfast table to get a doctor's help for a persistent flu. Instead, she was rushed to hospital, diagnosed with acute leukaemia. That's the day Lawrence did what he never imagined he could or would. He stood up to his church, his family and his friends to try to save his daughter's life.

Bethany needed blood transfusions, a treatment not allowed by their church. But as he thumbed through his Bible in desperate need of words of comfort, Lawrence came to believe that the Book was telling him something else altogether ... that it would be a much greater sin to let his daughter die than to let her be transfused. As she was just sixteen and a half, and in the face of Bethany's own furious opposition, he gave permission for the treatment to begin.

The decision has cost him. His church shunned him, his wife divorced him and his other children no longer speak to him. He has never seen his only grandchild. And when Bethany died, Lawrence wasn't there. She'd been taken by her mother to a then undisclosed location for alternative treatment.

"I was Bethany's father. I had a right to see my dying daughter. I had a right to know what her treatment was. I had a right to tell her I loved her. If I had been with her, she might still be alive today."

So, the grieving father turned to the courts in search, he says, of justice.

I think he was perhaps looking for a little solace and maybe even a measure of vindication.

Lawrence launched a lawsuit that alleged that the Watch Tower Society, its lawyers and religious leaders had misled his daughter about her medical treatment when they urged her to refuse the transfusions. He kept up the fight for nearly a decade. That cost him too. In time certainly, emotionally without doubt, and he has twice had to declare bankruptcy in pursuit of a goal that, even after all those years of trying has so far eluded him.



Or has it? "Think about it," says Hughes. There hasn't been a blood case involving children in North America in almost six years. Not one! There should have been at least four, five, six or more cases in that time. So even if I lost, maybe I won."

We think he has.

We want to tell the untold story of Lawrence's lonely campaign for his brand of justice that started in all those years ago in a hospital room ... this story of courage and persistence of determination and courage in the face of overwhelming odds

We're starting off strong. We have extraordinary access to the court records. There are already 30 boxes of legal documents to wade through and we've started that process, but there are more documents to be purchased and much more research to be done before we can even begin to write the script.



Your Giving & Our Gratitude

We are looking to raise \$20,000 that, in addition to the \$6,000 we currently have, will go toward development of a documentary on Lawrence Hughes' Bethany and Lawrence Hughes. We will be able to leverage this money with other funds available to Canadian producers. This will allow us to develop a script and create a short video demo. With a script and demo we are confident we can raise the rest of the money to make the documentary a reality.

- We are Pay Dirt Pictures Inc. a Calgary based production company specializing in long form documentaries.
- Margot McMaster, an Emmy Award winning producer/editor with over 25 years of experience in the industry. She has worked in many genres from series TV, and lifestyle

programming to The Amazing Race Canada and produced behind the scenes segments for major motions pictures and series. But her passion is documentary film making and giving a voice to those who struggle to be heard.

- Lynn Raineault, a Gemini nominated, award winning television producer, director and writer with 25 years experience in news, current affairs and documentary production for broadcasters in Canada, the U.S. and Europe. She's tackled social, political and economic issues throughout her career, but what she loves best are always those human stories about everyday people and their real life struggles. For an example of her work, go to: (it's also the shortest so it won't take you but 30 minutes.)

[Far From Home](#)

- Whatever amount we have raised by the end of this campaign we will add to the \$6,000 we already have in place and put towards a March 1, 2014 application for development money.

Your Impact

It's often said it only takes one person to make a difference. Did Lawrence Hughes win or lose? There are people lined up on both side of that question. But he did have an impact. He did make a difference. You can help us tell this little known story about this ordinary hero in the hopes it will inspire others to step up and help themselves or maybe help others. Maybe those others will include you.

You Can Help even if you can't contribute

We understand that in these economic times it can be tough to find that little bit of extra cash, even for a cause you want to support. We get that, but you can still help. Reach out to others online, through twitter, facebook, tumblr and other social networking tools. Let people know about our campaign. Let people know that they too can help. The power of one is all that it takes.

Created By:



• [Margot McMaster](#)

Producer

Help make it happen for Margot McMaster! Contribute to Dying to Believe.

[Contribute Now](#) ▶

0.0155 Complete

\$310CAD

Raised of \$20,000 Goal

46 days left

[Contribute Now ▶](#)

Flexible Funding

This campaign will receive all funds raised even if it does not reach its goal. Funding duration: November 19, 2013 - January 18, 2014 (11:59pm PT).

Select a Perk

for your contribution

- **[\\$10CAD](#)**
[Feel Good One](#)

[You will get that really good feeling you get from doing the right thing and your name included on the web site when it's launched and a thank you in the film's credits.](#)

[6 claimed](#)

- **[\\$50CAD](#)**
[Feel Good Two](#)

[You will get all of the above plus a free digital download of the film when it's finished.](#)

[3 claimed](#)

- **[\\$100CAD](#)**
[Feel Good Three](#)

[You will get all of the above plus a personal call from the producers.](#)

[0 claimed](#)

- **[\\$200CAD](#)**
[Feel Good Four](#)

[You will get all of the above plus a copy of a signed production still \(4 to choose from\) signed by the crew.](#)

[0 out of 10 claimed](#)

- **[\\$500CAD](#)**

Feel Good Five

You will get all of the above plus an associate producer's credit in the film plus a signed copy of the script.

0 out of 10 claimed

- **\$1,500CAD**
Feel Good Six

You will get all of the above plus an executive producers credit in the film

0 out of 5 claimed

- **\$10,000CAD**
Feel Good Seven

You will get all of the above, plus an executive producer's credit plus an evening at the gala opening of the film and a private dinner with the producers (airfare within North America included).

0 out of 2 claimed

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