



a.larry.ross
com.mu.ni.ca.tions

news release

4300 Marsh Ridge Road • Suite 114 • Carrollton, TX 75010
972.267.1111 • 972.267.3535 (fax) • www.alarryross.com

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

[A. Larry Ross Communications](#)

Kristin Cole 972.267.1111

kristin@alarryross.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I Am Second Debuts Survivor Stories in Honor of 9/11 10th Anniversary

Individuals reveal the power of God among tragedy

DALLAS, August 31, 2011 – World Trade Center survivor Sujo John and Pentagon survivor Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell share their experiences of 2001 in honor of the 9/11 10th anniversary in videos released on [I am Second](#), a website featuring the stories of personal struggle, transformation and hope of celebrities and everyday people.

Both John and Birdwell found the tragedy of the 9/11 attacks taught them much about life's priorities and God's plans.

In early 2001, after earning his MBA and moving from Calcutta, India to America with two suitcases and \$50 in his wallet, [Sujo John](#) and his wife landed jobs in the World Trade Center – he on the 81st floor of the North Tower and his wife on the 71st floor of the South Tower.

“It was a most beautiful, clear day and I sent an email to someone that goes to my church saying, ‘Something is happening to me this morning, I know there is a call of God on my life. I have just been chasing stuff in America, but I want to be used of God,’” said John. “It’s 8:05 in the morning, and I hit the ‘send’ button on my email.”

Moments later, the first plane hit John’s tower. Despite walls collapsing around him, jet fuel from the plane flowing onto his floor, fires burning and overall devastation, all John could think about was finding his four-month pregnant wife in the other tower.

John joined thousands of people fighting to escape in the stairwell and heard the second explosion as the plane hit the South Tower. As he came to the plaza – once a place of life – John realized the exact opposite was now true as hundreds of bodies covered the ground. He then felt the earth shake as the South Tower began to fall.

At that moment, huddled with 15 to 20 people, he encouraged everyone to pray to God, which they all did without hesitation or debate. Twenty minutes later, surprised he was still alive, he crawled back to that same location where he had prayed with those people, only to realize none of them made it out alive.

- more -

“I said, ‘God, they just called upon your name, and how come did they not make it?’ And I felt God saying, ‘Sujo, they made their peace with me in their dying moments and they are resting with me in my presence,’” he said.

As the North Tower fell shortly after, John realized he would most likely never see his wife again. Just when he had given up hope, his cell phone rang. When he answered, he heard his wife’s voice, telling him she had been running late and never made it to work. John’s life story changed that day as he felt God’s plan for his life.

During this same time, [Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell](#) was experiencing God’s saving power in the Pentagon.

One minute Birdwell was in the bathroom and the next he was being tossed around like a rag doll from the explosion of an 80-ton jet crashing through the building at 530 mph. The flames consumed his body, burning over 60 percent of it, and the darkness and blackness captured his heart in the panic. At that moment, he expected to die.

Staggering with what little strength he had, his colleagues rushed to help, only to do more damage. Birdwell felt his skin sliding off like hot wax. Changing their strategy, they were able to carry him to safety. He describes the painful moments that followed in the hospital of realizing the pain of being a burn victim. His injuries were so severe that his family was called in to say their final goodbyes. Birdwell did not expect that in over 20 years of military service, the hardest thing he would ever have to do was to say goodbye to his son.

But Birdwell realized God had plans for him to survive, and eventually lead him to become a Texas State Senator.

“I got a purple heart for stepping out of a men’s restroom; and many of our men and women in uniform earn their purple heart today by stepping out of this great nation into foreign danger zones,” Birdwell said. “Christ earned his purple heart by stepping out of the perfection of heaven. And that’s exactly why the term ‘I am Second and He is first’ is so appropriate.”

I am Second is designed to help individuals discover hope. The [I am Second](#) website includes authentic video stories related to a variety of personal struggles, including abuse, addictions, pride, eating disorders, broken families and the search for success and meaning in life. Celebrities featured include 2010 American League MVP and Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton; former Korn band member Brian “Head” Welch; surfer Bethany Hamilton; and football stars Bradie James, Colt McCoy and Sam Bradford.

[e3 Partners](#) launched I am Second in December 2008 in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and has since formally introduced the movement to Orlando, Fla., Evansville, Ind., and Kansas City, Mo., with additional cities planned for the future. Since its launch, the movement has spread virally across the globe, with the website garnering nearly 5 million visits from 217 countries/regions. For additional information, visit <http://www.iamsecond.com>.