

Week 22

5/25/12

James: I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I really... we really like what you were just watching. That really is a missionary with a camera; that's Janice Meyer. You know, I can't even describe adequately and put into words how much we love and appreciate Janice. Betty, she's been with us since she was a teenager.

Betty: Just a baby!

James: We're not even going to get into how long she's been around but she's been on the mission field now with us for some 25 years traveling with that camera. She is a missionary, not only with a camera but with a heart for God and a love for people. Janice, we're just glad you're here. We're always glad you get back safe.

Janice: Right. Me too!

James: You wonder sometimes. Don't you?

Janice: There have been a few times that we've had machine guns pointed at us. I've been on plane rides that I didn't think they would land. But it's always a privilege to get to go, for me; that is my heart. Every time there's a trip, I'm like here am I, send me! Because I love the adventure but I love the people the most.

James: Well, Betty and I have been around the world. We've been in those hard areas with you for so many years and we understand what it is like to travel for hours on a plane and then get into areas and get in vehicles and go on roads that are just nothing but one pit after another and just getting beat up. With all these difficult things, it's just like you said, you keep saying, "Here am I, send me." You just are ready to go. And you go and you know you're going to not only be involved in a mission trip but you're going to be taking pictures. What are you trying to do when you go?

Janice: Every trip I go on, I ask God, I say, "Lord, let me capture your heart." That is my prayer. I want to capture God's heart of what I see. It's so much of a privilege because those people have a story to tell.

Sometimes I think when I'm taking a picture of a child, I wonder, will this be the only record of this child being alive, and I was able to capture it? I had that opportunity to tell those people's story.

This last trip, James, we were in Sudan. I was just walking around in what they call an I.D.P. camp, which is Internal Displaced People. I just went walking around as we were there and the ground was cracked and dry. There was no way to produce anything out of it. And these people, if they had a cloth to hang over as a tent, they were the lucky ones.

I saw these ladies and I just wanted to sit with them and I had an interpreter. I went and sat with these ladies for like 20, 30 minutes and just talked to them. I don't often get the chance to do that.

I said, "Tell me your story. Just tell me how you ended up here."

They said, "Well, we had walked for five days because our village was raided and the soldiers came in and were killing people." And they just grabbed what they could and they ran.

It was just broke my heart because you know when you can see in people's eyes just almost hopelessness. And that was what they were portraying. And they said to me on their way there to get to this place, two children died every day.

One lady looked at me and said, "One of my children died just on the way."

I said, "What did you do?"

She said, "We had to bury him right there."

And then she pointed at her other child laying in her lap. She said, "And my child is displaying the same symptoms and I'm so afraid that she is going to die too."

And every one of them asked me for food. We didn't have enough food to go around. We would gladly have given them what we had but we didn't have enough food for that whole camp because it was just people after people sitting under a tree.

Let me tell you, those trees weren't like you would picture a nice shade tree. They barely had a leaf or two on them. There's very little shade. It's so hot there.

That woman told me, "I'm so worried about my child. I'm so worried. Please don't let my child die after we've made it here."

You know what? They don't have food left over now. They're waiting for us to come in and do what we can. They're waiting for somebody like our viewers and us to join together.

I always say let's join together. The missionaries will do their part if we'll do our part. Let's do this. Let's make a difference.

Betty: So they're just waiting for some little sign of hope that their child might live, and at the same time seeing all of the death around them, and the desperation.

Janice: We don't only save lives, we do give hope. To give a person hope is a high calling I think. And you don't often get a chance to save a human being's life. You don't just walk out your door every day and are able to save somebody's life. But when we do this and we help, we're able to do that. Right from our home, we can save a child's life.

James: You send back one of the most I thought gripping moving inspiring moments we've ever seen on television. I want you to look at it with us.

On the mission field:

Janice: My name is Janice. I've been a photographer with the *LIFE Outreach* mission team for over 20 years. I've traveled all over the world trying to help children in need.

Even though my heart is broken each trip by the amount of pain and suffering I've witnessed, I wasn't prepared for what I saw on our latest trip to south Sudan. This boy's name is Lazarus. His Christian mother gave him this name and it is very fitting because Lazarus needs a miracle. He wanted to see his picture a minute ago. I was scared to even show it to him because I don't know if he understands what he looks like. And I showed him and the man said he is saying, "Who is that? Who is that?" He can't even recognize himself.

[Weeping]

Janice: There is thousands like this all over Sudan. We need to help them get a brand-new start. We need to help them grow and be children and have fun. All it takes is food... food! It's so simple.

Jesus, give him a miracle.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: What's going on in your heart when you sit here with us and look at that and remember?

Janice: I just remember walking in there and we'd just landed on one of those dirt strips and pulled up there and we walked in, and were kind of seeing children in this clinic. And I just turned and I saw Lazarus and I thought is he alive? First of all because I didn't even know if he was alive, he was not moving. And we so often talk about the cry of children and how they're hungry. There is a point too when the cry is gone. When that cry is gone that's when it becomes dangerous and Lazarus didn't have the strength to cry anymore.

We were going to come back the next morning and do our photos and shoot our footage. I said, "I want to tell Lazarus's story and I don't know if he'll make it 'til tomorrow." Because I didn't want him to die and not have his story told. So when I sat down there by him, if you see me, I just didn't even know what to do. I did not know what to do. I just wanted to scoop him up at one point and run and grab a plane and say, "We're taking him somewhere" because they don't have much there.

But I was just -- at one point I was like, I don't even know what to say because this is this mother's worst moment in her life. What do you say at someone's worst moment? What do you say about her child? That it will take a miracle to live? And his little name was Lazarus.

I remember at one time I even said, "Come forth." I just wanted him to come forth; everything of life to come into him because right now we don't know for sure.

James: What's going on, Betty, in your heart because I know --

Betty: You know when I see something like that and Janice, I think it was very appropriate for your heart to be broken and to be weeping because I believe God was weeping with you.

I'm thinking about that mother and watching her weep and how heartbroken she must be to look at what didn't even look like her child anymore. All it was -- was barely any flesh

left on that precious little body. And just the devastation there -- just to feel the heartache of God through seeing something like this and that mother.

We can make -- it should not happen to these children. We should be able to fill that need and fill the heartache and take the heartache of that mother away. This is not right.

James: You remember in the gospel of John, Mary and Martha were weeping and Lazarus had died. And they said, "Lord, if you'd been here this wouldn't have happened." The only way Lazarus doesn't die is for Jesus to be there.

And the fact is, Jesus was there in Janice and was there in the missionary relief workers that were already in the area, in the fact that they set up an emergency type clinic, which we know we have to set up everywhere and is part of our mission feeding. So he was there but if a resurrection is going to occur where he -- you know, Janice, I believe you were there when Beth Moore prayed over little baby Matthew, and she prayed what really the missionaries told her would be kind of like a prayer of last rites. Maybe like Janice felt, I just want him to be remembered.

This little boy's precious to his mother, precious to God. And I really wish you'd understand how precious and special you are to God. I think what we don't get sometime is we don't number one, we don't know how much God's focusing his attention on us and if we could just focus on him like he focuses on us, he'll just have an transforming effect in everything about us. But if we do focus on him we begin to see through his eyes.

Jesus said he looked where the Father was looking and that's what directed his steps. He was moved by the heart of the Father, and he expressed freely the heart of the Father.

So what was happening there, I really believe is Janice was expressing God's heart and Beth Moore praying over little baby Matthew when she is told he won't make it through the night. And they're praying. Well, Jesus was there and a resurrection was possible but here's the issue. They had to open the tomb, when Jesus raised Lazarus, he said, "Loose him and let him go. Get the grave clothes off." It took involvement and action. Somebody had to call for Jesus to come to the scene of need and that's exactly what we're doing right now.

We're inviting Jesus to raise the dead so to speak; in other words, give life to the dying. That's what he came to do. So we're putting a telephone number there on the screen. It's always there if you say, "I'm desperate, pray for me. Something is going on in my family or my life." And it's paid for by love because we have a lot of people who call in and say, "I'm so glad I could just call that number. I couldn't have afforded the call but I need the

prayer." But today it's there to literally be an answer to the prayer and see the resurrection from the grave. That's what you were crying out for.

Now we saw, here's the beautiful thing about baby Matthew, he didn't die, he lived. And he lived because people responded in love. And lo and behold, many, many months later, not only is Matthew healthy and beautiful but Beth Moore went back and saw baby Matthew and I remember how she got out and kicked a ball with a baby who was barely strong enough to breathe. We saw the miracle. That's what you're praying for.

I heard you praying for that for Lazarus knowing that our viewers really were the hope for the resurrection of that Lazarus but the literal thousands in Sudan, and we've got 20,000 that you along with the missionaries found who we're going to add to the feeding which takes a miracle to raise a lot of kids that Lazarus represented, and it's our viewers all over the world who just said, "Okay, we'll feed them."

Those missionaries and people like you who go in to capture the need with a camera, you don't have to think you prayed in vain or hoped in vain or that mother hoped in vain, we can do it. And when they go to that lifeline, not just a call for prayer but a lifeline of hope and say, "Here's my gift to rescue three, five, or ten children," then you're seeing your prayers answered.

Janice: Absolutely! And can I talk to the people? I just want to tell you, I'm just a photographer and I have the privilege to go and it is my heart to help.

But you know what? I've been with this ministry so many years and I've watched your heart and I know it is your heart to get involved and to help and to save a life. I'm going to ask you, I've told James, if he ever quits asking, I will ask. He won't but I'm asking you, will you join with me? Will you be a part of saving children's lives? Will you just go to the phone and go online, however you can do it, will you help us? Will you help us save lives? Save little Lazaruses. They're all over Southern Africa and Sudan. Won't you join us? Won't you do what you can? Please be a part!

James: You're going to see -- and I really appreciate that, Janice -- you're going to see a widow who lost everything... attack.

See, I think that sometimes you don't really comprehend, you hear about Sudan, you even heard famous actors talking about it and so forth and thank God for that. You've got a crisis. You know our missionaries are helping in parts all over Africa, wherever there is need they're there and you're the ones that enable them to be there. But you don't

understand that in many parts of the world, especially in Sudan, people are being attacked because they're Christians.

And when we went there and met with them, they said, "We just wished the believers around the world would recognize we're here. We're praying they will. We pray for you." Those people who are desperate are praying for us. That God will be as big and real to us as he is to them in their need.

I pray you'll run to the phone or get online and say, "Here's my gift." Listen to this story.

On the mission field:

Announcer: The people of Sudan endured decades of turmoil and suffering during their Civil War. Armed marauders from the north would often raid villages in the predominantly Christian southern regions to steal their land as well as establish tribal and Muslim dominance.

Announcer: Now that South Sudan is independent, thousands of exiles are returning to their homeland. Equipped with their faith in God, a glimmer of hope, and the clothes on their backs, the villagers are eager to start over but are currently living in meager temporary camps with very little food.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I'm glad that woman knows she has children in heaven. I'd like her to have the impact of heaven on the children that she has and the children she is looking around at others are longing for to have the help they need to live and the food.

I really pray that you will be the answer to the heart cry of the people all over South Sudan and all over the hard-hit areas of Africa where they're just desperate. They're not asking for a lot of stuff. It doesn't take a lot of stuff to make them happy. Those kids over there have more fun playing with a rock and a string or a broken wheel than a lot of our children have surrounded by all the games because they have learned that life is precious. It's something we need to learn here in our blessed country, how precious life is. We take it too often for granted.

Please dial the number on the screen. Remember this, \$30, \$50, or \$100 we're able to feed three, five, or ten children for the next months. For several months that gift will just keep

giving life. It's not some big meal, it's not some big entertainment time, it's just giving them a chance.

Let me tell you something, you give them a chance and you give them health, and our missionaries go in and show them how they can begin to grow their own food. They even teach them how they can save water and even do little irrigation projects. It is amazing how responsive they are when you just give them a chance.

I'm praying that some day God will give us as creative people the ability to go over and inspire the whole continent of Africa, not only to come to God but to be able to develop the resources that are around them.

Would you dial the number and make that gift right now? Please? The largest gift you can? We have some gifts to send you.

And Betty, I'm believing with all my heart everybody's going to respond.

Betty: I was sitting here thinking as you watch *LIFE Today* today, you're thinking, this has been rough. This has been heavy. This has been sad. This has seemed hopeless. Let me say that the only way that it will remain sad and remain hopeless is if we do nothing.

You need to respond right now out of that broken heart. That broken heart is from God because he cares about these little children. He cares about the heartache of these mothers as they watch their children die. That mother was giving that child a leaf off of a very sparse tree that didn't have many leaves just so they could have something to chew on and maybe it would help them.

Please, as a mother, I ask you, let's reach out and help these mothers care for their children and help these children to be a continued blessing to their mothers.

James: God said, and he repeated it twice in Isaiah 58 that when you give bread to the hungry, when you care, God will answer your prayers. I know you've got them; I know you've got needs. We understand that. Meet someone's need.

God said, "I'll answer quickly. I'll be your rear guard." You will become a well watered garden. You'll be able to help restore the age-old solid foundations upon which we should build our lives and our future. It's God's promise to you. He cares about your needs. And so often we find our needs met by how we meet the needs of others. I know you care.

Betty, I don't know how you could have put it any better.

Please go to the phone or go online *LifeToday.org* and make the largest gift you can. Would you please? If there is any way you can give \$1,000 to help us take care of 100 children, there are 20,000 -- 20,000 more children we just found. Janice told you about a lot of them like Lazarus, a lot of them dying trying to get to the food -- two a day! Would you rescue as many as possible, please? If you get a busy, you be determined, say, "I'm going to get through."

We do have some gifts to send you to bless the children you love and those around you, not only your family but perhaps neighbor children, and to help you study the Word of God. We want to help you grow as you help us rescue lives and point people to the love and life of God. Thank you so much for making that call.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: At this very moment, a child is drawing his last breath struggling to stay alive due to a lack of food. Sadly, this impoverished child is not alone and without our help many like him face death as well. Today you can make a difference -- and help save a life.

In addition to the 400,000 children already in Life's mission feeding program our teams have found a region in South Sudan with another 20,000 children in need of immediate life-saving assistance. Our mission teams are in place but we desperately need your help to replenish critically needed food supplies immediately! Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift, we'll rush you the Jesus Storybook Bible. This beautifully illustrated book will help your children discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation, and at the center of their lives too!

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children, you may request our New International Version and New King James side-by-side Bible with a two-column format for easy comparison.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and save the lives of 100 children, and you may also request The Lion and The Lamb bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or make your gift online right now!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: In behalf of all you help, and whose prayers you're an answer to, we say thank you. Janice, we want to say thank you. I don't think you could go and see the heartache if you didn't know there were viewers who would change it all.

Janice: No, that would just be more heartbreaking than you could handle if you didn't know there was a solution. And because we know our people and the people that support *LIFE Today*, they're amazing.

James: A lot of them want to know, Janice, does it really work? Does it really get to the children and make a difference?

Janice: I have a photo I took on this trip of a little boy eating and it explains it all. Big smile -- that's what I live for! And it does work and it is working every day. We just have to keep going.

James: Thank you, Janice. And thank all of you from the depth of our heart in behalf of all you help, thank you so much. Encourage your friends to join you, not only watching *LIFE Today* but sharing *LIFE Today*.