

Week 11
03-11-13

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to be celebrating fifty years, first marriage...I tell you, I thank God!

I love it when I look at your smile, that's what got me. You know that got me, and it still does.

But fifty years of ministry! We're going to go back a little back. We're going to show you this week, you're going to enjoy this.

By the way, Tim Conway is going to be with us and then you're going to actually see, which, boy, this is going to take you back. You're going to see the very first time that we did the talk television program! And you're going to see something that – think about this now – fifty years of ministry! And the largest number of responses ever show you'll see later in the week, where a country/western musician who has written some of the best selling award-winning songs begins to sing to me, a testimony.

Here's the thing, we jammed the entire AT&T phone system; we got so many calls, people calling to give their life to Christ; they weren't calling for prayer, they were calling to give their lives to Christ. It jammed everything.

You're going to also hear today -- and by the way, later in the week you're going to see Robert Duvall, where he came when he won the academy award and asked if he could use one of my sermon illustrations. You're going to actually see that.

But today you're going to meet one of the most gifted people that's ever appeared on *LIFE Today*. As a matter of fact, Jay Leno on the Tonight Show discovered him, watching *LIFE Today*. His name is Steve Bridges. Steve Bridges loves Jesus and he went to be with Jesus just over a year ago, just asleep on the couch. As a great entertainer and impersonator who became famous for impersonations but especially the president George W. Bush. You're going to see when he came in and Betty showed us all the preachers, the people knew. I mean, you'll see Billy Graham, you'll see Benny Hinn... You're going to like this! You're going to love it! And then you're going to see him as the president! Now, this is really good. Watch!

Begin video clip:

Steve: These televangelist and Christian guys, I grew up listening to them. Every little kid that grew up in a Christian home had to listen to James Dobson on the radio. You know? "Mom, do we have to listen to that again? It's so boring!"

[Laughter]

I thought we take Dr. James Dobson, we take Jerry Falwell, we take Pat Robertson, we take Billy Graham, let's take Robert Schuller, maybe we can throw in Paul and Jan Crouch, and as I thought wouldn't it be great if we just put them all on their own cooking show?

James: James, let's do it!

[Laughter]

Steve: But I'm just trying to think, how would it work? You know? First thing first. The question is, Pat Robertson:

Steve as Pat Robertson: Welcome today to the Blessed Buffet!

[Laughter]

We're going to cook us some Christian Cuisine! We're going to cook a chicken here today. Amen? We're going to cook up a chicken and Reverend Jerry Falwell, doctor -- I just gave him a doctorate right there!

[Laughter]

Reverend Falwell, how would you cook this chicken? I want to know how you're going to do this chicken.

Steve as Jerry Falwell: And I want to say right now, that chicken's going to be southern fried!

[Laughter]

And I want a free-range chicken! I want a chicken with liberty. Speaking of liberty, I want you to send your chickens to Liberty University.

[Laughter]

For every chicken you send we'll send you a chicken lapel pin. Those in the dark smells like Kentucky Fried! Amen!

Steve as Pat Robertson: That's incredible! That's amazing!

Benny Hinn, what do you think about this chicken here?

Steve as Benny Hinn: I tell you, I think the chicken can be raised. I think it --

[Laughter]

I truly believe this chicken can come back to life. I really do, and I think we ought to do that!

Steve as Pat Robertson: Hold on! We've got to cook the chicken!

[Laughter]

Kill the dad-gum thing and you bring it back to life! Don't do that!

For crying out loud, Falwell, what do you think?

Steve as Jerry Falwell: I don't want any alcohol on this chicken! No alcohol on the chicken.

[Laughter]

Steve as Pat Robertson: Good grief! He's no fun, is he? Ix-nay on the alcohol-ay.

Steve as Jerry Falwell: Knock it off with the pig Latin. I know pig Latin too.

Steve as Pat Robertson: Well, folks, we've got another thing here. We've got another thing going here. We've got Reverend Robert Schuller!

Any comments?

Steve as Robert Schuller: I have a recipe for this chicken. It's a delicious honey glaze; it'll make it look crystal clear! Amen! I've got a recipe with a lot of possibilities. Yes, it's got lots of possibilities. Stay with this. It's a wonderful chicken!

Steve as Pat Robertson: Well, folks, hold on! I think we've got some –

Billy Graham, what do you think of this chicken here? What do you think?

Steve as Billy Graham: I believe that chicken came to a crusade.

[Laughter]

I remember him coming down the aisle just pecking his way around and I said, "You need to be born again!"

And he said, "Yes, sir! I do!"

[Laughter]

And I thought, "For crying out loud –"

Steve as Pat Robertson: Well, Paul Crouch, Paul and Jan are here.

Paul, what do you think?

Steve as Paul Crouch: Well, I think this chicken should have its own show. I do! I really do! I think it would have a –

Steve as Jan Crouch: It was a precious chicken!

[Laughter]

Steve as Pat Robertson: Well, folks, that's the show! Come back next week and we'll cook up some pastoral pasta! God bless you! Thank you! Good day!

[Cheers & Applause]

James: A very special guest, a surprise guest, surprise to the staff, they don't even know and a surprise to you, and I would like for everyone in America and in Canada, and

Australia, and Europe, and everyone here at *LIFE Outreach* and *LIFE Today* to welcome George W. Bush, president of the United States!

[Hail to the Chief instrumental]

[Cheers & Applause]

James: How are you doing? Good to see you! How are you.

>> How are you?

Steve as George W. Bush: Good to see you! How are you?

James: It's good to see you, Mr. President. Good to see you.

Steve as George W. Bush: Come on! Let's give it up for James and Betty!

[Applause]

Steve as George W. Bush: Well, I'm pleased to be here. It's exciting. It's a real kick. It's great to be back in the great state of Texas. That's right. Where I was the governor --

[Laughter]

-- for a long, long time. And I'm pleased to be here with James and Betty. I want to thank them for their kindness. I appreciate -- well they're friends of mine, mi amigos!

[Laughter]

That's right, I speak Spanish! That's right. Mi nombre is Jorge Bush. That's right! Mi casa is su leche.

Well, let me just ask, by applause, how many have voted for me? By applause?

[Cheers & Applause]

Okay! By applause, how many of you think I'm doing a good job?

[Cheers & Applause]

Okay! All right! Noticed a few of you weren't very enthusiastic up there, so let me ask my third question. How would you like to be audited by the IRS? [Laughing]

[Laughter]

I'm teasing. I'm teasing. I wouldn't do that. I wouldn't.

But I tell you what, I am excited to be here and I've got a lot of challenges ahead. A challenge I know a lot of people are questioning my policies. Policies in the Middle East, a lot of questions about that. I don't want to – I want to just clarify right here, right now, my policies in the Middle East. I want to just lay that question to rest right now. But before I do, I just want to ask one question: Do you have any ideas?

[Laughter]

I have an idea. I do! I do! Let me just show you my idea, James. This is Israel right here. I want to bring people together. Here's Israel. Here are the Palestinians, right there. You see? See, I want to bring them together. When we can bring them together then we can get a plan and we can move forward, just like that. Not backwards. We can go forward. See, I don't think that religion or church or whatever has to be divisive. I think that can bring people together. Watch this! See, I think church can do it. See, there you go. There's a church, there's a steeple! Open the door and look at all the people.

[Laughter]

That's right! But these are challenging times. They're challenging. They're tough times. They are! They're tough times for me because I never know where Dick Cheney is!

[Laughter]

Every time I turn around they're hiding him at one of those dad-gum undisclosed locations.

[Laughter]

I can't stand it because every time they take me there they blindfold me!

[Laughter]

You laugh, you laugh. A couple of months ago I was in China having lunch with the Chinese Premier and we were sitting there chowing down and he turns – he looks at me and he says, “Hey, George! It’s me! Dick!”

[Laughter]

Scared the pants off me! It like to give me a heart attack.

But I’m excited. I am! I’m excited. A lot of fun going. I remember – I like to have fun. My childhood was fun. Jeb and I, you know? Jeb, my brother. The one down in Florida. Jeb, spelled J-E-B. We had a good time. We were fun kids. We had a good -- We fought a lot. We did! We had BB guns. When I was a kid we had BB guns. Kids today, they don’t even give them rubber bands. We had BB – He always used to shoot me with it too!

[Laughter]

You laugh! He’d corner me in the garage – I remember Dad caught him. Dad caught him. Walks out in the garage. There’s Jeb, got me cornered in the garage with a BB gun on me. Dad said – let’s see if I can imitate – said, “Son, what are you doing? You’re going to put his eye out with that!”

Jeb looked up and said, “Uh uh, he won’t open them!”

[Laughter]

Me and Jeb, we were always up to something but we could never get away with anything. We never could. I mean, you can’t get away with anything when your dad is the head of the CIA!

[Laughter]

Our bedrooms were bugged!

[Laughter]

They had to get mad on family vacation. Said, "Don't make me pull this car over and investigate you!"

It stunk. Really did. But, I know that in the laughter and the hilarity there's a lot of you that come here with a heavy heart with some challenges, a lot facing you. I know, I want you to know I know what that's like. I know what it's like to have challenges. As you know, I've had some challenges in my life. I've met some personal challenges, some personal difficulties. But I want you to know something! I faced them. I faced them. I beat them. I won! I know what it's like. I had an election, close election, but I faced it. I beat it. I won! Heck, I got fewer votes than the other guy, and I still won!

[Laughter]

[Applause]

James: In case you didn't know, this is Steve Bridges.

Steve, glad to see you!

Steve: Thank you!

[Applause]

James: At least, that's who you say you are but I'm really wondering, under all the make-up if it really is Steve Bridges.

Steve: Well the truth is, I –

[Laughter]

Steve as Bill Clinton: James, Betty, I miss being in the White House so much. I had them make me to look like Bush.

[Laughter]

I've been in and out of there for the whole year and a half. They're so confused!

[Laughter]

He makes one policy, I change it!

[Laughter]

He walks in a room, I walk out!

[Laughter]

I've had nothing but fun.

Steve: I want to thank you, James and Betty for your kindness and support over the years for having me on, and I especially want to thank your listeners and those who are actively involved in this ministry for their kindness because it's been just incredible, what's happened recently. I'm grateful. Like I said, I don't know who's saying those prayers, but give me your number, I'll float you some dough!

[Laughter]

James:

[Laughing]

Well, thank you. You think about that. You've – He was a great witness. That did appear before our national leaders at the Kennedy Center and the awards and actually imitated, did the impersonation of Bush with the president and his wife sitting in front of him and then President Bush came up and said, "He's just not really as good looking as I am, is he?" And of course, everybody cracked up on that. But, Steve was a tremendous witness. And you know, he did have a – what you might call – an incredible launch into the public specter to really become a very highly visible, recognized individual who appeared in a lot of different places.

But he was a great witness. Everywhere he went he lifted up Christ and he was basically discovered on *LIFE Today* and seen so frequently as a regular on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

Steve was one of the best supporters of our ministry. He said, "I never, never forgot that God allowed me to begin to share what talent God had given me on this program and I had kind of been hidden and you might say was discovered." And I'll never forget that, and the love that we were able to share with him as a family of not only viewers of a television program but people who participate in outreach, and Steve Bridges joined us in that, for which we were very grateful. I know you enjoyed him!

Steve found it one of his greatest thrills to help us give fresh, clean water to desperate people. Many of you who watch *LIFE Today* have thought about doing it. You've said, "I wish I could do something." And I asked in the very early part of this year for all of our viewers around the world to pray that, first, God would put it on your heart and then that he would show you the way that you could drill a well this year, and hopefully every year from now on, because I really do want to be a part of taking fresh, clean water to the world; water for life, so that we can tell them about the water of life because they have seen the love of that God.

Many of you are very close. Think about this: many people are very close to finding the solution to the crisis they face, it's right under their feet, but they can't access it. Or the water they do access is contaminated, it's killing them. Watch closely. Listen with your heart. And then, help with your hands.

On the mission field:

Kyle: This is Dauphine. She lives in Madagascar and doesn't have access to clean water. Last year a stay-at-home Mom in Texas almost picked up the phone to help support a new water well in Dauphine's village.

This is Rosa. She lives in a tiny village in Central America. Rosa and her children drink water that looks like this. A couple of months ago, a small business owner in the Midwest almost mailed in a check to drill a clean water well near Rosa's house.

This is Vaughn. He's from Cambodia and he's watched his grandchildren suffer from the affects of a waterborne illness. Last week, a Sunday school class in a large church talked about doing a fundraiser to help ease the pain in Vaughn's family.

Dauphine's son almost made it to his 5th birthday. Rosa's baby almost made it through the night. Vaughn's grandchild was almost well enough to leave the clinic. We can do better than almost. Clean water changes everything.

End of clip

Delete to here!

James: Yes, it does!

Father, Betty and I join our hearts right now with missionaries and I think mothers, family members, asking you to give them what they need so desperately, fresh, clean water. In Jesus name!

I don't think you're going to sit here and watch this program, and I want to just thank you for not only watching the part that I think brightened your day, because you could smile, you could rejoice, what you heard, the truth and the things that gave you peace and direction. But I think that you're really wondering, can I make a difference in someone's life.

Betty, there's not a person watching that can't give a cup of water. \$48 gives ten people water for the rest of their lives, everyone can do something.

Betty: All of us can do something. You know, I think about it, our bodies can't survive at all without water. Yet, the water that these precious people, these children, are drinking is slowly taking their life, because it's so contaminated, so diseased. Let's make a difference in their lives. Let's give them life by drilling water wells and giving them fresh, pure water and a chance in life. Please join with us. We can all do it!

James: It's really sad that as you watch people going to get the water, like Betty says, they have to have it. They go to get life, and they get disease and oftentimes a very slow, painful progression toward death. In other words, it's what they go to get life, it ends their life because it's not suitable to drink. It's not really suitable for animals and they're in there wading and defecating in it; just filthy!

We can solve it. We cannot immediately give clean water to the whole world. We have to do it, like Jesus said, basically at one cup at a time, one expression of love at a time, one person expressing the love of God.

I know you want to help. I'm praying that you will simply do what you can. We do ask you, if you can possibly do it during this last week that we're asking you to help in this water for life emphasis, Betty, if you can you'll give an entire well. That's \$4800. Now that's just in these remote village areas where we can access it. If you went in to a great big population center of 50 or 100,000 people there's no way you could provide it for that. What we're doing is where the missionaries are hands-on working with the precious people in those third world impoverished countries, they begin to tell them about God's love and they see the greatest need is water and we can do it. It's something a couple can do, or an individual can do, even children are doing it. You can drill a well.

We're going to send you the beautiful commemorative bronze by Robert Summers, the world's greatest sculptor. This is the fifty year anniversary bronze, it's a special edition. We're sending it to those of you who will drill a well, or give \$1200; \$2400, pray three people or one person joins and we have a well. We're sending that along with Beth Moore's Restful Mornings and Incredibly Peaceful Evenings. You know, the blessed days. These devotions from Beth. The beautiful book telling the story of the hymns and the incredible instrumental music of the hymns, you're going to love it! How they were birthed.

We want to bless you. We never give you something trying to get you to give something. We give to you because just as we're giving water to them to bless them, we're giving to you to bless you. So, I hope you'll ask for the bronze. If you can drill a well, do it! But if you can give \$48 or \$144 you'll give ten people or thirty people water the rest of their lives. So there is a level at which you can participate.

Would you dial the number, take your bankcard and use it like it's a check. That's how you use them. Or you can go online, lifetoday.org, and say here's my gift. If you do write a check make it to *LIFE* but call the number and be persistent until you get through and tell us you put it in the mail, because we have to let those who are drilling the wells and working along with the missionaries, we have to let them know water is coming to your area. Do what you can today.

This last week's important we hear from you. Please make that call!

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is there is a solution! Mission: Water for Life is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything!

With your gift today, we can establish and drill 500 new water wells for remote villages in over 12 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten people. \$72 will impact 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime!

With your gift be sure to request Beth Moore's "*Blessed Mornings & Restful Nights*," a beautiful new daily devotional to begin and end your day in God's presence.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request *Morning and Evening: I will Praise You*, a two CD collection of 20 instrumental hymns and the companion book that shares the stories behind each hymn.

Also, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well! And be sure to request the limited edition 50th anniversary bronze sculpture, *Living Water* by artist Robert Summers.

This is the last week! Call, write, or make your secure gift online!

In the studio:

James: I hope you'll ask for the commemorative bronze, limited edition! 50 years!

[Laughing]

I don't know if we'll have another 50 years, it will be all right if we do. I think Jesus will come or I'll go to be with him. Betty and I, we kind of want to stick together and go together, and she says, "I hope you're not leaving today!"

But listen to me, we want you to have this bronze. And we want the villages in the areas where they're in such desperate need to have the water. So, whatever you can do, we thank you. And I know you're remembering it's the last week and all of this week you're going to be seeing what we would call the best of – I mean these are programs – I get a smile on my face because I know what's coming. Tim Conway's coming. You don't want to miss it! Thanks for watching. Tell your friends to watch this week. We're going to have a great time! Watch *LIFE Today*!

Announcer: Join James and Betty Robison July 18 through the 20th for the Awaken Now Conference at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas! Featuring inspiring speakers such as Governor Mike Huckabee, Pastor Tony Evans, International Bible teacher and author Beth Moore, New York Times best-selling author and speaker Andy Andrews and many more, including musical guest such as Big Daddy Weave.

Register today for this once in a lifetime event, celebrating fifty years of ministry with James and Betty Robison. Go to lifetoday.org.