

Week 11

3-14-13

James: I'm sorry! I'm already laughing! I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to be married 50 years and we're thrilled this year, we're celebrating not only our 50th wedding anniversary and praising God for just the fact that we can have a relationship that God can keep happy and healthy and hopefully being a blessing to others. But Betty and I enjoy our relationship, we hope you do.

But we're also smiling because we've got a very special guest. We've got one of the funniest people on the planet, Tim Conway.

You may say, "What in the world is he doing here?" Well, one thing is, he said that after we went to his show and went backstage and we shared Jesus with him and loved him and it's just absolutely incredible.

And Louise DuArt works with him. She's so funny. She's an impersonator. She can do Carol Burnett better than Carol Burnett. But, she encouraged him to come be with us; he loved it. As matter of fact, he wrote us a handwritten note, right after he left. "To James and Betty, my new very best friends."

And we thank you for that, Tim! We love you. You are one funny guy. I wish we had more funny people who were clean and wholesome and just fun to watch.

When we introduced him this place was packed. I mean, they were sitting on the floor, they were everywhere. It was just a lot of fun. So what we're doing this year, in the 50th anniversary, not all year but part of the year, we're going back and just bringing back some of those great memories of this 50 year journey. You will see me preaching. Some of you had never seen me in the crusades. Some of you watched a couple of weeks ago, the message that Billy Graham called me after he heard, early the next day, he watched it on prime time television nationwide, Billy saw it and said it was the greatest gospel message he ever heard.

Thank you, Billy! You've been such a wonderful friend. I love you so much!

But anyway, we just kind of let you see this, glimpses through the year. And don't you forget now, boy I'm really looking forward to this, Betty, at Gateway Church, one of the greatest churches in America, where we're members. Robert Morris, he's going to be

speaking. The 18th through the 20th of July. That's a Thursday through Saturday noon. We want you to be there. Mark it out. Don't you miss it. Andy Andrews, Beth Moore, Christine Caine, boy I mean some of the most dynamic – Sammy Rodriguez. You don't want to miss hearing these people. It's going to be a blessing to you. The music, Big Daddy Weave, and I'm telling you, don't miss it!

But hear is, going back and remembering, this 50th anniversary celebration, here is Tim Conway on *LIFE Today*!

Begin video clip

James: Betty, you and I have been married 44 years, we're getting older and Tim Conway is quite a bit older than we are and he is here. We're hoping for all of you who are here that he is able to get out where we can talk to him because like I said -- by the way, they did the Carol Burnett reunion, the highest rated show on CBS the entire year and this is good clean stuff. I like clean stuff. Would you like to welcome Tim Conway if he can get out here? I'm not sure he can get out here.

[Cheers & Applause]

[Laughter]

[Cheers & Applause]

Betty: Have you always been funny? Growing up, did it just come natural?

Tim: What makes you think I'm funny? You mean looking or what? Yeah, when I was in school I was short. I was only about 5'2", 5'4", something like that -- that's quite a difference though, isn't it? 5'4" you're kind of tall.

[Laughter]

I weighed about 95 pounds. I was actually going to be a jockey when I was small. I was galloping horses at a track in Cleveland but at this weight horses ask you to get off.

[Laughter]

Come on! And if I hadn't fallen off as much as I did I would have been a great jockey, I really would.

[Laughter]

I was exercising a horse one day, the first time I'd ever been in a starting gate and these guys go from zero to 40 like right now. You know? Gates open and I look down the track and here goes my horse and I go, "I should be on that horse!"

[Laughter]

And people who are betting on you really get upset! [Whistles] Hey! Catch up with that thing, will you? I had funny parents too.

James: I think you were trying to get him to tell you when he found out he was funny.

Tim: By watching my parents, I swear to God. They didn't know they were funny but they're the funniest people I ever saw. My dad was Irish and you know the Irish drink a bit. We know that. As a matter of fact, I was 12 years old before I found out that all brown paper bags didn't have a bottle of Seagram's with it.

[Laughter]

You know? But my dad, he was Irish. You could not tell him he was wrong. Whatever he did -- he bought a doorbell one time and hooked it up. Button on the outside, the thing wire fell on the outside. He hooked it up backwards so that it rang all the time except when you pressed the doorbell.

[Laughter]

And on this program, I swear to God, this is true, I'm not kidding. So we would sit at home at night listening to this -- [buzzing]. And when it would stop, my dad would go, "I'll get it."

[Laughter]

Well, you know don't ya? I'll deal with you. My grandson, Tim, made a cuckoo clock for me. You know you get those kits, a dollar and a half, and make a little clock-- and there is a bird in there, two cones and the chain and everything. So they make one for his grandparents -- their grand -- somebody's -- my mother and father. And the cuckoo was bothering my mother at night, [rrrh] all night. So she goes to my dad and says, "Hey listen, fix that so that it doesn't cuckoo." Right? So instead of tying the cords together and everything, he scotch taped the door shut.

[Laughter]

So now all night you hear [k-snorda, k-snorda].

[Laughter]

I swear to God this is true, because ABC came out one day to do some shooting in Cleveland and I happened to be Chagrin Falls where I live. They came out and they said, we'll take you on the town and everything so I'm telling some of these stories to these people. And my mother says, "Oh, you lie so much! You lie just to be funny!" I said, "Really? Come here." I took the guy with the camera. Went over to the cuckoo clock, right? Un-taped the door, and in there is this bird like this --.

[Laughter]

So that's when I became funny.

James: Did you have any other challenges when you were growing up other than living with your parents?

Tim: I was in the Army for -- ours -- in the Army for two years, a little more than two years. When you are court-martialed you get a little more time. So I had two years and I think about two or three weeks or something like that. The Army had no sense of humor. They didn't! I was stationed in Seattle. I defended Seattle for two years. As you know we were not attacked!

[Laughter]

[Applause]

So I'm on guard duty one night and they are sticklers about you having your gun with you when you're on guard duty and they are heavy! You go on for two hours; you're off for two hours. You're on, you sleep, then -- it's all night this on and off duty. I'm guarding a service club which has ping-pong balls and cards and Bingo in it. It is peacetime.

First of all, who is going to steal Bingo during a war anyway? "Give me the I-31, come on!"

So I'm walking around this thing all night with this gun and I go, "Uh pbstt! So I get in the back of a Chevy and take a little nap. So I'm like this and I wake up and I go, "uhmmn!" Oh, my gosh. The guy is coming -- the lieutenant. He is going to come around the building.

What you do is take your rifle and you go, "Halt, advance, and be recognized." And they give you name, rank and serial number and all that. So I go around the corner and I go, okay -- my gun! My gun is in the Chevy. So I go oh, boy.

So I go in the trash barrel there and they have a long neon tube, like you have in the light fixtures. So I have this thing and the guy, the lieutenant comes around the corner and I go, "Halt, advance, and be recognized."

He goes and he goes, "What's that?"

I said, "It is a light bulb. If you come any closer I'll turn it on!"

[Laughter]

So, I paint rocks white and put them from here to over there.

I started out, I swear, I started out life I was meant to be something -- I don't know, what I am, I'm nothing. When I was born I was very sick. So I didn't get baptized right away. I was about five months old before I got baptized and my mother was Romanian.

Listen to the silence here. Carson used to say, "Why don't you ever tell somebody where you're from?"

I'd say, "Romania."

-- That's why I don't tell anybody, nobody cares.

So when I'm being baptized they put me up on a cushion up on this altar thing and everybody goes around -- I'm Greek Orthodox. You kind of hang on to like a big cloth and everybody is praying and turning around. And as they're going around and they're doing the prayer and everything, then they stop. Now in the meantime, because I was five months old, I had moved around a little bit and I had fallen off this thing. So the priest turns around he goes, "And maybe --."

Now my dad goes, "He is risen!"

[Laughter]

And the priest says, "No, he has fallen."

So with that kind of start, I assume you're probably going to be in comedy in your life, I would imagine.

James: Did you have some challenges? I know you've written a lot of the movies that you and Don Knotts did, but did you have some reading issues?

Tim: I have dyslexia. I can't even say it.

[Laughing]

Yeah, I'm dyslexic. I couldn't -- yeah, that's why on the Burnett show, I'd memorize -- I memorized everything in life really. I can't read squat. Well, I could read "squat." -- Because I know the letters, "squat." But "squit," I couldn't read. That would be backwards to me.

James: Are you able to be serious?

Tim: I don't think so. Yes! Oh, sure, yeah.

James: Faith -- faith -- faith -- faith?

Tim: State capitals for two hundred!

[Laughter]

No, faith!

James: Tell me what has impacted your life, your faith -- spiritual aspects.

Tim: I have always believed that there was a God. There is no question. When I was small and I didn't have a religious upbringing. My dad was Catholic but he never -- they didn't go to church. I went to Sunday school and things like that. My dad, well, he did go to church once. We went to church. The choir started to sing and my dad, when they got through went [clapping]. Sit down, Dad. But I always believed that there was somebody

that you could communicate with besides your friends, your parents, whatever. I always selected God. I truly believe that he was there and was with me my entire life.

James: Now when you were -- Louise told me --

Tim: She lies a lot.

James: She said that you saw some kind of cross that -- tell me about it.

Tim: I was at a carnival; I was about 11 years old in Chagrin and a carnival came every year and had those impossible games, throw the ball, you can't get it in there. I used to work there -- I know you can't get it in there. So there was this fish pond like and you throw in this rod and it had a magnet on it and it would go down and would catch another magnet with all these fish. You could pull it up and you would have a surprise. So I spent one dime on a ride and already thrown up so I decided enough of that. So I went and saw a little piece of ribbon, green ribbon and it had a little white cross hanging from it that glowed in the dark. I wanted that so badly. So boom -- I spend four dimes with this stupid thing trying to get it and nothing. He is giving me little monkeys and things like that. I'm going [splttt]. So I go, well, I'm going home. And as I'm walking home I look down on the ground and here is a dime. So I pick this dime up and I go up to this tree. I swear to God, I do that a lot because I'm telling the truth! So I go to this tree and I go, and it is not like I'm testing God, it is not like a test, it is just can I have some help? So I go, "Could you please, if I do that again, could I win that cross?" I go back. I give the guy a dime. He gives me a pole. I go, [hmmn-hmmn] I pull it up. He goes up and reaches for this cross and gives it to me. Now you could have knocked me over with a balloon. I'm telling you I was just like -- oh, my gosh! Not only did you hear but you actually gave it to me. As I say, it is not testing, it is like maybe validating that somebody is around on those times and he was there. To this day, I'm still amazed by that whole situation that I asked, I got, so I know there is somebody is up there.

James: And the cross has meaning in our life because of the gift of God.

James: Betty and I laughed a lot there but we've actually watched this just like you did and we've laughed until we hurt. A really funny guy, isn't he?

Betty: He is! And you know, laughter is good for you!

James: It's good medicine.

Betty: It really is.

James: And the Bible says that it is. And there's nothing like the cross. There's no doubt that God has really blessed Betty and me with relationships with people that some people never get to talk to or get to know but then to be able to talk to them about that which really matters, the things of God.

We want to thank you for, really —

Betty, our viewers have expanded our witness.

You've given us an opportunity to talk about the Jesus that we love, the Jesus that's blessed our family and our relationships beyond measure and walk through those difficult hours, in the valley of the shadow, even of death.

He's a mighty God and it is the power of the cross; it's the vertical relationship that we have with God, and then the horizontal relationship that we have with others. And I think people have expressed their appreciation for *LIFE Today* and what you and I have been called to do because as Joel Osteen's dad said, "James, you and Betty brought the mission fields of the world into our home. Thank you!"

But we have. We've let you see not only needs that are very legitimate, but realistic ways that we can alleviate suffering and demonstrate undeniably the love of God; the vertical, the horizontal, the cross. I'm asking you to help us do that. I'm asking you to be an answer right here, you're going to here a big sister, they've lost family, caring for a little sister. But she's not going to be able to do what her heart cries for unless we become the answer to that heart-cry and that prayer. I think you're going to want to be the answer to it.

On the mission field:

>> There are times in life when we make sacrifices. Out of love for another we give something up. Maybe it's a dream laid down. Flores has a dream. For most of her eighteen years she's watched those in her village fight this enemy of contaminated water and she's longed to see a change. But then it became personal.

This wasn't part of the plan. Flores was a dedicated student with a plan to make a difference.

There was something in her eyes behind the hurt, the resolve.

While for now, life has forced Flores to lay some things down. Her dream isn't dead. Flores is a fighter for the life of her sister, and all those in her village.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: I can feel – and I really believe God lets me, somehow, identify with what people feel, that's compassion you suffer with. She has lost a lot. You've lost, we have. And then you've got someone precious and you want to keep them, but you can't if you can't give them a cure. They need clean water. That's the hope for that little sister.

Betty: It is, James. And as I watch those two I think there's that big sister that stepped into the place of being a mom to her little sister. And she's doing all she can do but she doesn't have anything but the diseased water to give her and they have to have water to even last a few days. So, she's asking in her heart for somebody to come. I believe that, to help them be able to both grow up and to be strong and to have a life that's without pain and loss like they've already experienced.

James: You know, many people today have called to say, "I want to drink freely of the water of life. I want to know Jesus." What we do when we show you a need like you just saw, we want those people to have water for life, so they can live in health. They're never going to have a lot of nice things necessarily, but life is the most precious thing. It's like you would give up everything you can see just to have life and for her to have a little sister that's healthy and to have a future. We can give them that.

We can give them water for life but we are with the missionaries, with the wonderful support of our viewers, the missionaries around the world, we're going to tell them about the water of life, we're going to tell them about Jesus.

This is the last week now in our Water for Life emphasis, now. We've got a goal of 500 wells, God knows I wish we could do twice that because God loves all the people we're trying to touch with his love. It's one thing to talk about love; it's another thing to demonstrate it. Nothing demonstrates it any more clearly than water for life.

Would you dial the number? Take your bankcard, use it like a check, go online to lifetoday.org and make the best gift you can. If you write a check make it to Life, but call the number and tell us you're mailing it in. We have to know so we can tell them to start

the drilling in the various areas. Tell the missionaries it's coming and we need to hear from you today.

So whatever you can do, if you can drill a well, \$4800 or give a part of that well, \$1200 or \$2400, pray for someone to join with you. Or \$48, \$144, surely you could do that, couldn't you? Give somebody water the rest of their life. \$48, ten people water the rest of their life. \$144, thirty people water the rest of their life. Would you do it? I pray with all my heart you will during this last week. If you get a busy you be persistent, you press on.

A lot of people are calling to give their life to Christ! So you be persistent and say, "They're calling to get life! I'm calling to give life, and I'm going to be determined to do it." And we thank you for it.

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!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, from the bottom of my heart, Betty and I want to say thank you and I hope you're dialing that number. Any time your heart is broken or you need someone to join with you in prayer, you can call the number, it's paid for by love.

But many of you are calling today because you want to express love and you want to give water. This is the last week, remember that please. Please do all you can to help us! We're believing God the help of people like you will enable us to drill another 500 water wells. It's just going to transform the lives of so many people because they're going to see the love of God in action.

Then, why don't your friends, you could go online. You might want to watch Tim Conway again; you might want to see Robert Duvall earlier. You may want to see some of the things that we've been sharing. I hope you will tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today* every day, but tell them about the anniversary, 50 years of marriage and ministry, and that they're going to be seeing some things that people have asked to see over and over because it blessed them so very much. And you will be seeing so many guests that are new programming this year with people that you're anxious to meet. So, thank you for supporting the outreaches of *LIFE*, thank you for helping us share water!

Again, remember, this is the last week. Do all you can to help!

[music]

Announcer: Join James and Betty Robison July 18th through the 20th for the Awaken Now Conference at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas featuring inspiring speakers such as governor Mike Huckabee, international author and speaker Christine Caine, Reverend Samuel Rodriguez, speaker and best-selling author Lisa Bevere, and many more including musical guests such as Phillips, Craig, and Dean!

Register today for this once in a lifetime event celebrating 50 years of ministry with James and Betty Robison! Go to lifetoday.org.