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Week 39

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! And welcome to beautiful Colorado. We have the privilege of being here, James with some dear friends of ours that live here in Colorado and minister together.

James: Well, you're going to know that we've got Andrew Wommack who has the radio and television program, Gospel Truth and then a real special treat, his wife Jamie is with us. She just really... is kind of like Betty, she doesn't really want to do television but we're going to ask her why in the world did she agree? I think Andrew wants to know. Why in the world did you do that?

But we welcome Andrew Wommack and Jamie to *LIFE Today*. We really love you two. We see you a lot. You have her walking with you some when you come on the program, The Gospel Truth and for those of you who may not know this, Andrew comes on the Daystar Network, I think there are a number of places that we're probably in close proximity to one another on some of the various inspirational networks but on Daystar, Andrew and Gospel Truth comes on right after us and he is right here in Colorado. I want to thank you for being here with us.

I'm curious, why did you agree, Jamie, to come on the television program with us when it is not something you really like to do?

Jamie: I think it is because you asked. As a teenager I followed you and you were one of the first ones, when I got my first paycheck, I'd give my tithe to Billy Graham and to the James Robison Evangelistic Association.

James: It really amazes me Andrew, I can't believe you were young and you were in Vietnam --

Andrew: You can't believe I was young?

[Laughter]

James: I can't believe what you --

Andrew: I know I've grown a little older but...

James: Well, you've been married 40 years now. This is our 50th; we're celebrating our 50th, going into our 51st, Betty gave me an extension. You've experienced your 40th and going into your 41st. But back when you were in the service in Vietnam, what you told me really shocked me.

Andrew: You know we listened to you before I really had my life changed in an encounter with the Lord in 1968. So I knew of you even before then. But right after I had my experience with the Lord, you were one of the very first ones that I sought out and was trying to get some direction from. Then when I was drafted in '69 and sent to Vietnam, all during 1970, I just sent my whole check to you. I only got \$1,000 a month, but I sent the whole thing to you for that whole year in Vietnam.

James: That amazes me. I want you to know I consider that a tremendous honor because the people who help us do what we do have identified obviously with something they have seen... and praise God for it.

You also though, went through kind of a transformation in your life in ministry that led you perhaps, as with me, in a much broader direction than say denominational sectarian confinement, and sometimes bondage to denominational spirits and tradition. You were stretched beyond that and you said you were blessed by our Bible conferences and I praise God for that. But I want you to, if you would, just tell our viewers about the ministry of the gospel truth and also, Charis Bible College, which you're building such a beautiful... thank God for the viewers that help you make it possible. Tell us about your ministry. I want our viewers to know what's going on.

Andrew: Well, mine's a teaching ministry. I got born again when I was eight years old and I really loved God. Jamie and I, our testimony is basically the same. She is just four years younger than me. I got born again when I was eight, and she got born again when she was eight. And then when I was 18 is when I had this encounter with the Lord; likewise with her when she was 18. I just got turned on to the Lord. So I had been a Christian my whole life.

And I was sharing with you and Betty earlier that I've never said a word of profanity, never taken a drink of liquor, never smoked a cigarette. I was living the Christian life as I was told and yet there was zero power and zero victory in my life. As a matter of fact, I was an introvert. I couldn't even talk to people and look them in the eye, I was so introverted. I just had all of these problems.

Then the Lord showed up on March the 23rd, 1968 and transformed my life. I didn't understand a lot but I felt the presence of God. I mean for four and a half months I was caught up in the presence of God; I was gone someplace. When I finally came back down to earth, nobody wanted me. I was too radical for the Baptist church. I have nothing against Baptists, but I'm just saying they didn't want me anymore when I finally got usable, they didn't want me anymore.

[Laughter]

James: I think the sad thing is in their behalf is sometimes they have responded to what has been extreme that you would not appreciate that you've had to deal with even in your journey, let's say into a fullness and freedom that you hadn't known. I think that they are reacting to -- they see themselves as guardians of the truth, which I'm glad they are because they've certainly held the scriptures up, but I think sometimes their reaction is to something that is so far beyond where God was actually taking you. But it kind of scares them sometimes and I think that's part of the reaction.

Andrew: Things that you don't understand, you normally either are just afraid of them so you try to stop it.

Anyway, the best thing that ever happened to me was I got drafted and sent to Vietnam, and that was my Bible college. For 13 months in Vietnam I just spent anywhere from 12-15 hours a day studying the word, and it transformed my life.

So to answer your question, the reason I'm a teacher is because I had been born again and loving God and serving him the best I knew how but boy, what I didn't know was killing me. And when I began to learn these truths through God's Word, that's what just totally turned my life around. So I feel like God has called me to be a teacher of the word, not so much to inspire people to bring them to the Lord, which I still love to see people born again, and I mean we see a lot of people born again but I have a passion to see people who know the Lord and yet don't know the goodness of what he's done for us; I have a passion to see them receive that.

James: You're making disciples -- Christ-like.

Andrew: That's it. And that's what God has really put on my heart.

James: That's what he's called us to do. Jamie, have you been excited about the journey? When we got into ministry and you've watched what's happened, has there been a joy level on your part to watch him? Or was there some concern and wondering, "Oh, my, what are we going to do? How are we going to live?" ...and so forth. What was your feeling about him?

Jamie: Well, when he first told me about the school he was never big on any Bible schools so...

Andrew: I was critical of them. She was being polite.

Jamie: Yes, I was being nice. So it kind of -- I had to work through that like are you sure? And why do you want... but now I see the mentoring he's done. We have schools all over the world that's teaching; his main focus is the grace message and righteousness in Christ Jesus. So it is exciting to see people all over the world receive the truth from people that they've never heard Andrew but he's taught them. And they

go... and so it is the Word of God that is bringing the word; it is the same when it is taught all over the world. So that's exciting.

James: What are you really excited about now? I know you're building the school, you've been amazed at the support that's come in, I am too. I think it is quite phenomenal because you don't spend a lot of time talking about it. You're building a facility, it's about a \$50 million facility so far and I hope you don't stop helping him. By the way, if they wanted to know about what you're doing, about the Bible college, about the conferences that you hold, not only here in Colorado but other places, what is the web site they would go to?

Andrew: It is just AWMI.net.

James: There it is on the screen. You can see it. Go there and just check him out. But you really are amazed at what God is doing; aren't you? Do you see something going on on planet earth through the family of faith that might be an answer to Jesus' prayer that we really become one with the father, appropriately sanctified in truth, not bludgeoning one another with our view of truth and then being perfected in unity? Do you see any of this hope that this prayer will be answered in our life?

Andrew: I think there is the greatest hunger for God, of things that I've ever seen in my life. I was a product of the Charismatic movement and back during that time, you know you couldn't go in any direction without finding people who were just fanatical for the Lord, and I think it is at least that good or better. And we are seeing people that are just coming to the Lord all over the world. Their hunger for God is dramatic.

James: And you're seeing a move not just from say the excitement and emotion of an encounter with God but also being grounded in the word. Because a lot of people are praising God and bouncing off all the walls that never had any foundational truth to stand on. I'm now seeing a fullness in the spirit and a fruitfulness in the spirit because a lot of people talk about the Holy Spirit, they don't bear the fruit of the spirit. But I'm seeing fruitfulness in the spirit, which includes a loving understanding of one another, even forbearance, and a real love and a joy and a peace that is totally supernatural,

bring people together that used to would never be seen together, they wouldn't even want to be identified. I'm seeing a miraculous work.

Andrew: I think the thing that excites me the most right now is I have prayed for people, seen healings, I've seen miracles, I've seen great things but the thing that excites me now is these videos that we have of people that have been healed and raised from the dead and all kinds of things, most of them have never had me pray for them. They've never had me minister to them. They heard the truth. They got the teaching and these people are going out on their own and seeing God just do miracle upon miracle. That's what really excites me is it is not built around a person.

This is what Jamie was referring to that I've been to these other Bible college locations all around the world. The first time I went to Uganda, we didn't have our materials translated into Ugandan at the time and so my people that graduated from our Bible college went there and taught the truths that we taught them but they didn't reference me, the people had never seen me or anything and yet, they had received the word. And as I listened to their testimonies, it was exactly what God did to Jamie and me 45 years ago; the same thing was working in their life. It wasn't built around a person. It's not an anointing on a person, it is the Word of God that is changing people and we're seeing that.

Betty: I think that really excites God because he created all of us, he gave us all our personalities. He doesn't want us to all be the same. He gives us different gifts to use in different ways to draw people unto him. So if people can just realize that, I don't have to be a preacher, I don't have to be like him or... God created me to be all that he wants me to be. And if I'll do that, then he will accomplish what he needs to in me and people will be blessed by my life if I will just live it according to what he wants me to do.

James: Do you know when we went through these transformations in our own life, even our... I call it setting our sails to catch the fresh wind of the spirit and let God carry us where he wants us to, even if it might have appeared to be uncomfortable. Because I remember he said to me when some people were unhappy with me and they

said they weren't going to listen to me anymore, he asked me, "Are you going to follow the crowd or follow the cloud?"

I said, "I'm going to follow the cloud."

And as we pursued him we watched him literally work miracles in the lives of others.

One of the things he said to me is it is not going to be about somebody anymore, it's going to be my body. And I went, because Billy Graham said in one of the greatest bits of advice I ever got, transforming, "I suggest, highly suggest you learn to spend time with people you've been taught to avoid." We don't know him as well as we should because we've refused to know them at all and we miss him. So when you see the power of Jesus in people, and you see his body...

When I went to Oral Roberts because that's one of the things where I was going to be -- I was taught to stay away from but I went and became his friend. I said, "Oral, I want to thank you for praying for people because a lot of us made fun of you."

You know he started crying. He said, "I was sorry I had those long lines." He said, "A lot of people I prayed for, they didn't get well but they would say, 'But thank you for praying.'" He said, "I just wanted to help. I wish we didn't have to have lines."

I said, "Oral, I believe God wants his body to pray for the sick and to minister to the hurting. And he doesn't always want it to be the somebody."

And he said, "Oh, James, I have prayed for so long for his body, for everybody to care for others and to literally see the works of Jesus."

Andrew: I think this is one of the mistakes. It happen in the body of Christ is that we depended too much upon the ministry gifts of people, which I praise God that they're there and I believe that Oral Roberts had a special ministry of healing. I'm not denying that but the best thing is the Word of God and the truth setting people free.

Right now I'm in a position where we take our Bible college students with us to my conferences and they do the praying for the people. And they're the ones that see everybody born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit and healed and delivered and set free. And I don't pray for the people anymore. And it is so satisfying for me to see that I can teach people how to do this.

Like one of the examples we've got, we had a little girl in England that -- long story but she was three and a half years old and she was only the size of a nine month old. She couldn't eat. And she had to have everything pureed; she had never eaten solid food in her life. She was sent home by the doctors. They had put a tube in and she was given a saline solution, sent home to die and her parents brought her to our meeting and she got totally healed. And I mean went out and ate Kentucky Fried Chicken the first meal that she had ever eaten in her life. And she's now seven years later and totally healthy. They went through our Bible school in the U.K. and then they came over to the U.S. and now they help run our third year Bible class.

But Ashley and Carly, we have taught them these things and now Ashley and Carly are seeing hundreds and hundreds of people healed and set free by their testimony and the truths that they've learned. And to me, that's more satisfying than if I personally go out there praying for them.

James: It absolutely is, and it is more pleasing to the Lord. We are so star struck and we make -- we put people up on pedestals. Not good to put anybody up on a pedestal; it's just not a safe place to be. It's not a safe place to put someone and not a safe place for somebody to stand. I'm telling you, the Lord made it very clear to me that we're not going to have a personality-driven ministry. I have some gifts and gifting but I'm a servant. That's why I want to help you do what you do.

Now you are really excited about *Find, Follow, and Fulfill God's Will*. This is a great book. As a matter of fact, we'll make it available to you. Andrew says, "I don't know if anybody is going to buy my book or not but if I can help them, I want to give it to them." But why are you excited about this? Because this is great stuff!

Andrew: When I first got touched by the Lord, it was because I was seeking God's

will. James, I came just months after I had an encounter to your meeting in Euless, Texas -- it could have been in Bedford, but right there. And I asked if I could meet with you because I just knew God had some purpose for my life. And I wasn't able to get to you but I spent some time with Jeanne Rogers. And within a month God had shown me that his direction for my life was to be a teacher of the word. That's what got my whole life started; it's what turned me around. I knew God had some purpose for my life and I didn't know what it was.

I believe that there are a lot of people that they love God but they're doing their own thing and asking God to bless it. And since I found out what God has asked me to do, I've never asked God to bless what I'm doing. If God tells me to do it, I know it is blessed. And that's so much easier to just find what he wants you to do and do it. There's a blessing and an anointing on that that you don't have when you're doing your own thing.

James: He wrote a tremendous book based on the teaching, how to find the will of God, how to discover it, what is it, how to follow it, and how to fulfill it. In other words, this is just not about discussing the Holy Spirit, defending the Holy Spirit, debating your position. This is about walking in the fullness of the spirit, bearing the fruit of the spirit to fulfill God's will and purpose in your life. If you'd like to have it, we'll be glad to send it to you.

Do you know, Andrew and Jamie, what we do that we just love, we like to touch the suffering with the love of God. And we found out that viewers, if it works, if it is effective, even most Americans like to do what works. We do a lot of stuff with money, it doesn't work, and we might as well throw the money in the air. We turn it over to Pharaoh and don't give compassion and oversight, we're in trouble. But our viewers love to help.

What we're asking you to do this week and this is the last week that we're going to be asking you for this Christmas Smiles and Shoes. We want you to help us give all-weather shoes to children for Christmas. That's why we have to raise the funds now. And this is the last week we're asking for your help. I want you to listen and watch.

You're going to be moved by the love of God in a beautiful little girl and a very special family. And then we ask you to simply do what God leads you to do.

Begin video clip

>> Over the years Monica has always been in Special Ed. She's always... her speech has always improved because there was a time when she was very young we didn't even know if she would ever say her name. We didn't know if she'd ever learn to write her name. This is who Monica has always been since she was a small child. This is just the first time we stepped out and let her be herself.

She has watched *LIFE Today* over and over again but for some reason when she saw this mission project, she was really captivated.

>> She told me, "Pastor David, I want to do this for the children." And she was just bubbling over with excitement, with joy. The morning that Monica got up on the stage and asked the church family for help was just an awesome feeling for me. And believe it or not, she stood in front of this entire church of 300 people and made that same plea to help the children have shoes.

>> For Monica it was never about how much money she had raised. I don't think she understood that part. She wanted to know how many children were getting shoes.

>> And it was amazing the response. Every Sunday, she would stand in our commons area with her basket and people would come by and just fill it up. And believe you me, Monica embodies that kingdom of God. She made this church come alive for missions.

>> She had collected a total of \$6,000.

>> Yeah, I did!

>> You did!

>> Uh-huh!

>> Through all this I now realize that she has been able to express herself using her own voice and her own words; not just to one person, but now all around the world.

Did I ever think -- did I ever think that she would be able to do this? No! But God did. He knew! She been passionate about it and she has done it and she has changed so

many children's lives just because of her passion and her love to help someone else. And I just think that it is important that everyone knows that we all have a purpose. And no matter her mental ability or education or anything, we all have a call and we all have something that we can do.

>> Please help the children.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Wow! I love that family! What a beautiful mom!

Monica, we see Jesus. You're a sweetheart, honey! Thank you!

\$6,000 Monica raised -- that's amazing -- to give shoes like this to little children because it touched her heart.

Betty, I find myself praying all the time that God will touch the heart of every believer of every person with what touches his heart and they will do, like Monica, do something to inspire others to literally be an expression of the heart of God. And I've said it many times, it's a play on words but it is the truth, and then an extension of his hands. We are asking you to help us give 200,000 children in very challenged areas of the world where the missionaries have asked us, "Would you do this?" In many of the areas, it will not only open the hearts of the families and the children to receive Christ and the truth of God because they've seen his love, but in many of the places they've already led these families to Christ and they just want to do something to be a special blessing at Christmas.

So we're asking you to help us give shoes. These little shoes that are quite expensive when you get the typical ones like them in the marketplace, we get them for \$3.60 a pair, which means \$36 we can give ten pairs of shoes. Monica gave many pairs with the help of her friends. \$144 you can give 40 children a pair of shoes. We try to give them to them... they are expandable, they are adjustable, a little larger so they can grow into them and these are all weather and they last a long time, they're very durable. And of course, we've got the little tiny ones that always touch your heart for these little ones, but we're asking you to help us do it and this is the last week.

Would you dial the number? Take your bankcard to say, "I'm giving 40 pairs of shoes"? Or "I'm giving 10 pairs of shoes"? Or go online LifeToday.org and say, "I'm going to help." You can make your gift right there.

By the way, if you write a check make it to *LIFE* but do call us and tell us you're sending it so we know, we've got the shoes and we can tell the missionaries they're coming.

We're sending you the little Christmas ornament, you're going to love this, it is beautiful -- a little shoe, a little bronze shoe. As I've said over and over, it's a conversation piece when people see it. You tell them we're giving shoes, we're sharing the love of God. It will inspire them to do the same.

We're also giving the bronze Christian to those of you who will help us give smiles for Christmas, cleft palate surgery, facial deformity, correction. For many a new smile and those surgeries cost an average of \$500.

If you can give \$1,000 we're sending the beautiful bronze and I love it, it is called "Christian." This boy being held by a missionary was held by our daughter Rhonda, our oldest daughter. He came out of the sewers; that's where he lived. We led him to Christ, gave him a home.

When I say "we," that's you. We're sending this commemorative bronze to say thanks for giving the smiles. If you make that gift, that very special gift we want to send it to you and it will be a blessing to you.

Betty and I together say thank you so much for your love, your help. Please call today - this is the last week -- or go online and do all you can to help.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it, children needlessly suffer not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes. For most of these children, they've never owned a new pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor in the light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections that could lead to crippling consequences, disease, and even death.

By responding today you can help *LIFE* immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 200,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will help provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will help provide 20 pairs. And a gift of \$144 will help provide 40 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

In appreciation of your gift, be sure to request our 2013 Christmas shoe ornament. This beautifully crafted antiqued ornament is a unique reminder of your gift for Christmas shoes, a treasure to place on your tree each holiday season.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries. And you may request the limited edition 50th anniversary bronze sculpture, "Christian" by renowned artist Robert Summers.

This is the last week! Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

On the mission field

Betty: I'm sitting here with Berta and her eight children that she loves very, very much. And she would do anything to take care of them health wise. She's just one example of one family that needs our help. We want to be able to put some shoes on the feet of these children, precious feet. Jesus loves these children all over the world. And so as this example, as she sits here with her children, just visualize, just picture families, children that need to have shoes on their little feet. So I hope you will join with us. This is a great opportunity to bless these families that just barely get by from day-to-day. Please join with us.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, we thank you so much. Weren't you blessed by Monica's testimony? And I want to thank you for helping too. However you can do it, this is our last week to ask you to help during this emphasis for Christmas Shoes and Smiles.

If you'd like to have Andrew Wommack's book because I know you want to know the will of God, you want to follow it and fulfill it, I really believe that, I think this will help. He said, "Let's send it to say thanks for your help."

Betty and I want to say thanks to Andrew and Jamie. Thanks for your television appearance. I'm afraid you're going to hear so much from so many people that they're

going to be expecting you to be sitting there by Andrew. So you just got to sit there by him. He doesn't think it is going to happen.

Andrew: She is a secure woman. She won't be moved by what they expect. She will do what she wants to do.

[Laughter]

James: We love you! Thank you! And thank you so much for sharing this time with us. Again, thanks for helping us put God's arms of love around a hurting world.