

Week 36

9/27/13

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*, I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to share this time with you.

I was about to say, Betty, you're about to get your socks blessed off. It is interesting to say that when we're talking about giving shoes. And I'm holding up a picture that's on a card, it is like a Christmas card, and there is a beautiful little child and you can tell they're living in a very challenging situation. And of course, what Jesus said, "If you do something for the least of these, these little ones, you've done it to me."

What I'm holding is a card, Betty that a pastor and the youth worker and the children, primarily in Haw River, North Carolina at Lamb's Chapel, decided that they were going to help give shoes for Christmas, which we're doing right now. You're going to see these children and you're going to hear them talk about what God put on their heart to do. And they gave 2,000 pairs of shoes! -- 2,000 children, beautiful little feet got shoes and they utilized this card. You're going to meet all these people. Would you agree that it's great to see these kids?

Betty: It really is!

James: Everybody watching can have an opportunity to give shoes. Now let me tell you something that I want to do for you, there are two things that I'd really like you to get as just a certainty, I want you to get the book that I have written called *Racing Jesus* to the hurting. Now I made a statement, it inspired what you could call a gift book but it inspired this book and all the things that I'd said about reaching out to the suffering and those who have fallen, I said, "I want to race Jesus to their side." I said, "Betty, you and I are going to spend the rest of our life..." I was kind of pulling you into this commitment but you're all right with it --

Betty: Absolutely!

James: And we're *Racing Jesus* to the side of the suffering. We'll never get there first but we want to be a close second. I want you to get this book. I think when you get it, you'll want to get another copy and pass it on. But then, Betty and I found this book that we think is the most beautiful table book we've ever seen, *His Name is Jesus. The Promise of God's Love Fulfilled* by Max Lucado. This is the most beautifully laid out book that I've ever

looked at. Each page captures your attention and focuses your attention on Jesus. Then the detail of his life, it is very difficult not to find this a meaningful devotion time. So we're sending these books to those of you who simply do what Haw River, North Carolina, Lamb's Chapel did, they gave shoes. We want you to do that. But I want you to hear, like I said, these children, get your socks blessed off. You just need to listen. I think you're going to hear Jesus through these beautiful children. And Pastor Biggers, how we thank you! You know what we've been told? That when you walk in their huge sanctuary there are pictures all over the walls of the outreaches of Life and it captivates people. Thank you for what you have done. Watch this with us!

Begin video clip

>> Give shoes for kids in places kids don't have shoes and stuff. So they need these shoes to walk to school and stuff.

>> We got it for Christmas because God was born on Christmas and he gave his life for us so we should give to others for other things.

>> And they take them to the countries and then they actually just give them out to the children and the parents and they make different sizes for them.

>> They showed us pictures where kids were playing outside and they didn't have any shoes on.

>> They make me feel worried and sad because there are rattlesnakes around there!

>> They could step on a rock, could hurt their feet.

>> I'm just imagining if I was that kid and somebody was helping me, I'd like that.

Announcer: These children have gotten the opportunity to provide much needed footwear to thousands of children all over the world as part of *LIFE Outreach International's* Christmas shoes project. Their church, the Lamb's Chapel in Haw River, North Carolina helps teach children the godly principle of looking beyond themselves and helping others.

>> I really think it's important that we really equip children for the great commission. God has called us to reach people for him. One of the greatest ways we can do that is to teach them to have a servant's heart, to love others.

>> The idea with the kids is not only just to stand there and teach it but to constantly give avenues, here's how we do it. All right, this time we're going to look at these kids. Y'all got a closet full of shoes, they don't have any. Now here's what we're going to do.

>> One of our services, we had all of our children take all their shoes off. We just wanted them to sort of experience just for a little while what it might have been like for a child that lives every day without a pair of shoes.

Announcer: With the Christmas season approaching, the church found a unique way to touch several lives at once with the gift of shoes.

>> After you purchased a pair of shoes, you would get a card and you could give it to them for Christmas and say that you bought a pair of shoes in their honor.

>> And they did it not only for their grandparents, their teachers, their friends; it really was a great experience for them.

>> I think we sold a thousand the first Sunday. People just picked them up. This was one of the most heart touching things to people that got them.

Announcer: With thousands of shoes provided for needy feet all over the world, the children of the Lamb's Chapel have experienced the life-changing excitement of touching others with the love of God.

>> Sometimes I just stop to think, I'm blessed with all of this stuff and I'd like to help other people.

>> It makes me feel good because I'm helping somebody else when I'm not just helping myself for something I don't need.

>> It feels really awesome! I mean extreme awesome just to give it to them.

>> Just know that you can do that and change a child's life so much. And of course, just like everything else *LIFE Outreach* does, this just opens people's hearts wide open. That's why I love *LIFE Outreach*, it does both sides of Jesus' ministry, the earth's side and the heaven's side, too. And we appreciate that so much!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, that's great! Brian, Pastor Biggers, thank you! You've loved us a long time. I just send you a big ol' hug! And those beautiful children, they look like Jesus to me. I love those kids!

Betty: I do, too! And I love the expression, "extreme awesome!" That was the best word she could find to describe how she felt by being able to help the children and give them some shoes!

James: Neither awesome or extreme was adequate so it was "extreme awesome!" Here's what they're doing, now look at these little tiny shoes and you think about it, most of the children, they don't get shoes even when they're young teenagers. And you put some shoes on little feet like that, oh, man! That's going to make a mother so happy. And then the other children grow into these shoes and they're adjustable. The straps have a Velcro strap that enables you to tighten them up. And obviously, we're going to put some feet that are a little smaller than the shoes so they can wear them for an extended period of time.

And note that they're all-weather. You're not going to get the deterioration that you would get from cloth or some kind of a fabric. It doesn't have leather. It is basically an all-weather rubber substance that people pay in the states and the more advanced countries where we're blessed, pay quite a bit of money to wear these shoes. But we're getting them for \$3.60 a pair, which means, Betty, for \$36 we've got ten pairs of shoes.

I'm going to simply say to you that I want you to get *His Name is Jesus*, the book. We're going to send *Racing Jesus* for any gift because you're joining us in the race with Jesus to touch the suffering. But I want to give you this book, *His Name is Jesus*. And as an example, \$144, that's going to provide 40 children with a pair of shoes. And we're sending this beautiful table book for gifts of \$100. I would suggest that you actually consider saying you know what? I'm going to do that but I'm also going to get another book; I'm going to make another special gift and I want to give this beautiful table book about Jesus to some family member, maybe your family or maybe someone you care about and you think, you know what? That would be a real treasure because you cannot take this book and not open it and begin to look through it. There are some brief statements on a page that just jump out and capture your attention and then leads you into the in-depth picture of Jesus' entire life, *His Name is Jesus*. I want you to have this.

The neat thing is, we get to bless you, you get to bless others but you're giving shoes to children. As you hear Kathy Troccoli talking about what she saw when she saw a child with a hurt foot, because he didn't have shoes and the old rag on that foot. And then wait

until you see it. Listen to Kathy Troccoli and watch this because you're the ones that can change this.

On the mission field

Kathy: It's been a privilege to come on these trips with *LIFE Outreach International*. I always think I've seen it all or you think, the poor are the poor. When they have nothing, they have nothing. Then I'm coming into these places in Central America, village after village and I'm seeing the wounds on these kid's feet and it is just boggling my mind; it is breaking my heart.

Look at him; he can't put his heel down. It is awful! It is wrapped up in a dirty rag and he's got infection in his foot. I'm sitting here with little Brian and trying to -- I'm trying to unwrap this to show you he was just -- he stepped on a bark of a tree.

Okay, honey, it is okay. I don't want to pull this because it will really hurt him but it's stuck to the wound.

What is he supposed to do now? You know? He stepped on a tree bark. That's crazy! It makes me really frustrated and really sad because it is just a simple -- there is a simple solution and it is shoes. We could change his life and the lives of children all over the world, like right here in Central America, with your giving.

Will you reach into your heart at this season to give a gift so children like little Brian and children all over the world can get a gift of a pair of shoes? Just a simple thing... to put a smile on his face and also to protect his little feet. What a blessing that would be. Remember the poor this Christmas and partner with *LIFE Outreach International*. Thank you so very much.

Well, what could we do?

>> Look for the mom and see whether we can take him to a clinic.

End of clip

In the studio

Betty: Wow! James, when I watch that and I see the little boy with his feet just so infected and so irritated and torn from just the ground that he walks on because there is so much debris and all the infection that can get in their little feet. And that rag was stuck to his foot! It just broke my heart. I look at these little shoes and I think about the little feet that

will go in these shoes. With a small child, the natural instinct of a parent is to look at their children's feet and see how soft and pink they are on the bottom and how cared for they are. But these children, you look at their feet, there is cuts, there is bruises, there is infection from just walking around without shoes on their feet, and then it gets into their bloodstream and into their system and can make them really, really ill. Some of them die from it. James, it is such a desire of my heart for our friends to join with us and let's give some shoes to the children.

James: You know when the missionaries bring us something that they think will meet a need, they're really pretty reluctant to walk up to us or to communicate with us and say this might not seem to be an essential like water, clean water, non-contaminated water or food, if they're starving but we have found that we've got a real problem in these terribly contaminated settings with all the debris on the ground, the trash, unsanitary conditions.

They've discovered, and this really surprised us, Betty, because we knew that kids that go barefooted, their feet are tough because we went barefoot a lot when we were children. But we didn't go barefooted in contaminated places. We didn't go in those kinds of places and get the junk in our feet that they do so they get some pretty bad infections.

But here's what we discovered, they also get -- and this might take you back a little bit -- but they get in their feet what's called a hookworm that definitely makes them sick and can get in their brain. This is what the missionaries were telling us. A lot of kids were dying. It took them a while to understand why. They said if we can just protect their feet in the areas where they live, we can't move them out of their home area, they're really happy if they've got some food and water.

By the way, in the areas that we're giving the shoes, in nearly all those places we've also been providing water. But the missionaries say, now we've got clean water but kids are still getting sick because of what they step on. So last year, just like Haw River, North Carolina, people in that church, Lamb's Chapel, and those beautiful children and all over the country, our viewers said, "We like that! We can do that for Christmas." That's why we're starting way ahead of time because we want to get the shoes to the missionaries so they can give them out by Christmas.

Then there is another thing we're doing and this is big! We want to give cleft palate surgeries. We want to give these children smiles. Now think about this, \$1,000 gift nearly 300 pairs of shoes for 300 children. That's a great gift; two cleft palate surgeries because they average \$500. We're going to do as many as you help us do.

So would you dial the telephone number? Would you take your bankcard, use it like a check or write a check to *LIFE*? Or go online and say, "Here's the best gift I can make." Now we've got gifts for you but you're going to be giving kids a chance at life. And these shoes for Christmas, I'm telling you, it is greater than any toy, any gift your grandchildren or your children in your community or your family are going to open. It is going to mean so much to them and to the missionaries because it opens hearts. Thanks for making that call. Please do it now and I thank you for doing it.

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 day. Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

On the Mission Field:

Kathy: The last couple of days I've had the privilege to go all around Nicaragua to different villages and visit so many of the families and so many hundreds of little children without shoes on their feet. I've been showing you some of the impoverished situations.

Some of them so devastating that I could hardly even believe what my eyes were seeing. And I have been talking to you about putting shoes on the feet of the little ones so that we could protect their feet and put smiles on their faces.

Now I'm in the home of Maria here with her little daughter Gretchel. I'm literally seeing this precious face here. This little girl was born with a cleft palate. She's six years old now. As you can see, her mouth can't close and so I've been asking her mother all sorts of questions about her lifestyle. They have to grind up food for her so that it could go down in liquid because she can't chew solids.

What makes me so sad is that if we had gotten to her earlier in her infant stages, we could have easily corrected her cleft palate. And it is not like we can't correct it now but this girl wouldn't have had to suffer as much as she has. And now I'm asking you not only to give to put shoes on the feet of so many boys and girls around Central America and around the world but to literally put a smile on this face of little Gretchel as other little girls and boys all over the world who have this problem, it could easily be fixed.

Look at this precious face and she looks so sad. And even when she is happy, the face doesn't change because she can't smile. I'd love to come back here a year from now and see a smile on Gretchel's face. And I would be able to thank you because it is through your giving it will happen. Thank you so much!

In the studio:

James: I don't know if we just take for granted the fact that we can chew and swallow but we have seen some situations where when you lose that opportunity you realize there is a whole lot there to be grateful for.

And Betty, we see that little girl and her little mouth open, I just -- that image is just planted in my mind. You may say, "That doesn't look like cleft palate." It is a unique type of cleft palate but the surgeons assure us it can be corrected. And that particular surgery, I think could be a little more tedious than some.

However, all cleft palates, as you look at these little children's faces and you see how disfigured they are, how difficult it is for them to ever smile or to keep food in their mouth, when you see that, surely you want to correct it if you can.

And Betty, I love to help the helpless. I'm not real excited about helping the clueless or the people who think you just owe them something and they resent the fact that you've got anything. That breaks my heart. I'm sorry we're developing that mentality in our country.

But in a world where people just have never seen somebody that moves out of their world and cares, it makes such a big difference that you notice. Betty, excuse me but I want everybody to help us give smiles to children and give them shoes for Christmas.

Betty: I do, too! I feel like what Kathy was saying about that little girl is, it would be worth everything to go back and see a smile on her face. I can't even imagine that little girl, it is like her jaw is just frozen and she can't move it at all. But to be able to tell her and let her know that help is on the way, we cannot only put shoes on their feet, James, but we can give those that need it a first time chance to smile like they should be able to. I hope you will join with us!

James: With all my heart, I pray you will. I don't want you to ever feel bad if you can't help. I don't -- now listen to me -- I don't feel guilty because I can't feed every child -- even as a ministry -- or give every child some shoes. I don't feel guilt because I'm going to do what I can. I want to enjoy our family, our 11 grandchildren are growing up and I've got a grandson that has just gone to the mission field after winning a National Championship in hockey.

I'm saying, "Dear God!" He's the little guy.

Luke, when he was four, he said, "We're going to feed them in Africa!"

I said, "How we going to do it, Luke?"

He said, "With money!"

And I said, "Where are we going to get it, Luke?"

He said, "We're going to give it!"

Now then after achieving his goals he headed off for the mission field. Well, I'm glad!

See, I cannot do it all and I'm not going to feel guilty; I'm going to do my part in God's heart and that's what we're asking you to do. We're asking you to dial that telephone number, it is truly a lifeline. Boy, it is going to make those missionaries so happy, they get those shoes and be able to give those kids smiles. Boy, what does that mean for Christmas? For somebody to really see that Jesus is alive; it's not just the birth of Jesus, it is life of Jesus that we're sharing.

Please dial that number. Please take your bankcard, make the greatest gift you can make. You can give \$1,000, I'm asking you. Listen to me, there are some people who can give \$5,000 or \$10,000 and we need it right now. We really do! We're asking you to do it because it will make possible smiles and shoes. But if you give \$36, ten children get shoes. Would you do it? Whatever you can do, we've got some special gifts to bless you. You're sure going to bless others. Thanks for doing it! Thanks for making that call.

Now listen, you get a busy, don't stop! Get through and make the gift God put on your heart.

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.

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End of clip

On the Mission Field:

James: Here's just an old worn out shoe. But here's two pretty little feet that this wouldn't work for. Maybe it would work for somebody for a while but this little girl needs shoes.

Betty: James, I look around and I see all these beautiful children and I think it is not things we're trying to give them, it is life! And shoes to put on their feet because there are so many diseases that comes from walking around in their bare feet. They pick up so many things that get in their system, in their bloodstream and just slowly destroys their little bodies. So it's a need that we're asking for. It is not just a luxury. They need our help.

James: It is not even comfort. It is a chance. And this is something I'm very excited about. It is something we can do together. We're going to get her some shoes. Get her some nice shoes. These pretty feet -- get all the dirt off of them. Man, those dirty feet. Clean them up. Are they ticklish? They're not ticklish?

[Laughing]

Are they too tough to be ticklish? Huh? They are; aren't they? You know I just hope you will do all you can to help us share life and opportunities and better future for children like this. It is so easy to talk about the love of God and about how much God loves people but it is a whole different thing to show them how much God loves them. A little girl like this just out here in the middle of a remote village in Central America, feels very comfortable in the arms of love. Thanks for helping do all you can. In the name of love, for the glory of God.

In the studio:

James: This is our last day. And \$36 you say, "Will that matter?" For 10 children, for the missionary that blesses those children, boy does it make a difference. Listen -- no gift too small because it shares the great big heart of our God. You do all you can. We want to bless you. Thanks for helping us on this last day!