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Week 44

James: Thank you a lot for being here. You're very encouraging and we appreciate you giving us an opportunity to share with you. I'm James Robison; Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

I think this is a beautiful picture and a great title. Here is a beautiful girl stepping out of a boat willing to walk on water. Step Out in Faith and Let God Work Your Miracles, work miracles through your life. Now I happen to know that this beautiful lady that you're about to meet, the wife of one of the most compassionate men, minister and preacher I've ever known, Matthew Barnett, with the Dream Center in the Los Angeles area, and we were there, Betty, from the start to help them. His wife Caroline has been at his side and she sees people in tremendous need that not only feel overlooked but too often they are overlooked. You talk about downtrodden, defeated, addicted, sold into all manner of evil practices and trapped and many of them very, very poor so they feed them and they love them.

But Caroline, watching all this happen felt like something else needs to be happening beyond what I'm seeing and it is quite a story.

Would you welcome Caroline Barnett to *LIFE Today*?

Caroline, I'm glad to see you. Matthew has been here quite a few times.

Caroline: Thank you so much. It is such an honor to be here. Thank you!

James: We love the Dream Center, the City of Angels, the Los Angeles hospital, the City of Angels Hospital that we helped you to renovate. Are you about to totally complete the renovation?

Caroline: We can't even believe it! After almost 20 years we will be finished in this next coming year. We'll be able to double our occupancy.

James: How many are you feeding there right now? Because I know I was there in the

early days when we helped raise the funds. I actually stood up on top of the building with Tommy, Matt's dad who is the dreamer for the Dream Center, and we're asking for help. And then we went down and we began to just feed, like we're feeding in Africa and other parts of the world, we began to help you right there. How many are you feeding now?

Caroline: Well, you know we serve 1500 hot meals every single day through the Dream Center, and then... we have several feeding programs. We take food out into the streets and feed hot meals to the homeless. We have a hot dog truck that goes out and hands out hot dogs. And then we have a mobile food bank that goes out and serves up to 50,000 people a month. So just taking food out to the street where the need is.

James: See, this is basically talking about a church ministry. And the interesting thing is that what happened in the L.A. area was birthed out of a church, which I was blessed to dedicate because they asked me to, in Phoenix, Arizona, the First Assembly of God church.

Interestingly, I dedicated the largest Southern Baptist church in Phoenix and I dedicated the last Pentecostal church and I live to tell it! Can you imagine? I'm actually friends with the pastors of the Church of Christ, and I'm friends with priests and the cardinals and the leaders in the Catholic Church who are all seeking for a spiritual awakening. Isn't this a great day?

But here's a great ministry that was birthed out of something that a church said we will help with in Arizona. Now you've been there a long time and you've been helping but what led to this statement and this book and what you share. What happened?

Caroline: At the age of 18 I felt the call of God on my life and I came to the Dream Center because by nature I'm a shy person and so I had all this built-up passion but no outlet for reaching the lost. I wouldn't go stand on a street corner by myself. So when I came across the Dream Center, the moment I stepped on campus, I said, "This is it! This is what I'm going to do with the rest of my life."

So I've been working on the streets of Los Angeles. I'd given out thousands of bags of food, I'd been on the homeless outreaches to skid row, which is our homeless district in Los Angeles, I'd been on prostitute outreaches, I'd been in the homes of people dying of AIDS to then help with their funerals later, so I'd been doing this kind of work for nine years when God totally changed my perspective of what we, as the body of Christ are capable of. It happened through watching a documentary of the children

who are fighting as soldiers in Africa, being forced to kill other children; and it was a breaking point for me.

I'd been doing this kind of ministry for nine years, I understood our world was broken and dark but after seeing this documentary I was so devastated, I cried hysterically throughout the whole time and I was kind of upset with God. It was one of those times when I thought the world is beyond wicked, there is no hope for it, the devil is winning, and God doesn't care.

So as I was crying out to God that night I said, "God, why? Why are you letting this happen? Why aren't you doing something about it?"

He so gently reminded me. He said, "Caroline, I sent my son Jesus to pay for the sin of what you just saw so that there would be hope for redemption. I sent my son Jesus for the healing that needs to take place. In my word, I've guaranteed you success and in my word I promise to protect and to provide. So Caroline, why are you letting it happen?"

And for the first time it dawned on me, it is our fault. As we look around this world the injustices, the hurting, the broken, the lost, it's our fault. God has already given us everything that we need to change this world, including creating us with our gifts and talents.

So it changed everything for me, of what I thought we as the body of Christ were capable of, because up until this point I thought even if we rally together at best all we could do is scratch the surface of issues. But in reality, we're the solution. We have the power to not scratch surfaces but actually solve what we see around us. So that was a very overwhelming revelation for me that it was our fault but okay, God, what does that mean in our everyday life? What does that look like for us?

So I went back to the Bible looking for answers. As I read the stories of God using very ordinary people to do the miraculous to save his children, I realized there was no limit to what he would do. He would stop the sun, he would part the sea, he would feed his children from heaven and again, he used very ordinary people to do the miraculous. So okay, God, I get it. It is our fault. Okay, I get it. You can do whatever with whoever but still, what does that look like for our everyday life?

That's when he showed me through scriptures and then through the lives of many I've seen serving at the Dream Center that all he needs is our willingness; our willingness

is more than enough because you look up statistics and at first they're overwhelming huge numbers but then I had a second thought, well, how big is God's army?

Do you know there are over 2.1 billion Christians in the world, and there are almost five million churches? So with the God that we serve and with an army like that, what can't we fix? What can't we solve?

James: Why do you think people don't seem to believe that or grasp that because it is obvious that it appears we're allowing the gates of hell to prevail against the one force on this earth that Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail against. But he also told us not to hide his light and his glory under any kind of covering. Does it appear to you that a lot of people have settled in either out of timidity or shyness or deception; that they just kind of settled in and not realized that if they would just look at him, they could walk on the water? Do you think that's what's got us sidetracked?

Caroline: I think we've been lied to for a long time by the devil and then I do think we've felt overwhelmed and really didn't know where to start. What I've seen across America and all the churches I've gone to speak at, people are willing, they just don't know where to start. As soon as you give them the first step to take, they jump right in.

Betty: Well, it is a matter of trusting him to do what he wants to do through us, being available like you said. We don't have to have all the answers. We need to follow him as he directs us in what to do.

Caroline: And then simply understanding what is our role and what's not our role. A lot of us have fear about stepping out. Like what if I go and witness to someone and they reject and they're not interested in what I have to share? Or what if I pray for healing over someone and they're not healed? There is that big wall that we face.

But truth is, it is our job to share the gospel, it is God's job to change the heart. It's our job to pray for healing, it is God's job to do the healing. So if we just remember what's our part and what's God's part I think a lot of our fears would go away.

James: Yeah. That first step is realizing that we're not going out to collect trophies, we're going out to be a witness of what he has done -- who he is, what he has done in our life. And really, I know the key thing, in my opinion, and I've just been able to share this with a whole lot of people about witnesses in peace and power, witnessing with a supernatural confidence.

When you go out to love the people he loves, to allow him to love through you those people, it is amazing the peace and comfort that comes because you're not going out to get a member, to get a recruit, you're going out to love someone. But you can go ahead and share with them as it is obvious you love them, how much God loves them. And you can be a witness to them by talking about what he's done for you. Do you find that that's one of the first steps you're talking about?

Caroline: Absolutely. And when you simplify it by taking a bag of food to someone in need, you've already broken down the walls. They know exactly what you're about from the moment that you step up.

Every story that I've heard through the Dream Center, every broken life that I've heard them testify of God's goodness, there hasn't been one time when I didn't think, no wonder! No wonder you ended up in your circumstances. No wonder you made the choices that you made.

It is just so exciting to be able to go and be a light and a hero on behalf of God. It's just beautiful to see what God is doing in the streets and people do change. I've heard the most gut wrenching stories and I've seen the most beautiful smiles coming from those same people as they're healed and whole. So God -- it does something for us when we start witnessing God's miracle hand on a daily basis.

We're not just hearing it from a pastor in a pulpit, we're not just hearing it from a missionary visiting, but we're physically his hands and feet going out and witnessing his miracle hand on a daily basis. It does something in us. It changes who we are.

James: Yesterday, I was eating with my Vice President. I saw a lady help a lady back to the restroom at the restaurant. Now listen to me. Her legs were this big, wrapped with all this stretch wrap; what do you call that?

Betty: Ace bandage.

James: Wrapped around both legs, could barely walk. Helped the woman back; she's coming out and as she came by I grabbed her arm. I want you to listen to me because this is exactly what you're talking about. I grabbed her arm. I said, "Excuse me just a minute. What are you battling?"

And she named a disease that I cannot pronounce.

And I said, "Can I pray for you?"

"Oh, would you please!" She did not know me. She did not know I was a preacher. She felt love. We had in this big restaurant a visitation of God. I prayed for this woman. The Spirit of God... I prayed for God to heal her miraculously.

"We need... we thank you for doctors but we need what only you can do." It was just an overwhelming sense of love.

She turned -- I turned to the daughter. I said, "You're helping her; aren't you?" And she had tears. "Yes, I am."

I said, "I'm so proud of what you're doing. I can tell you're in the battle." And they began to walk.

Suddenly the lady turned back around and she said, "Who are you?"

I said, "Well, I happen to be a minister. I even happen to have a television program."

"I thought maybe I had seen you. Thank you so much!" I'm not telling you that it was because she recognized me that I'm bringing it up. That's not the issue. She recognized the love but it aroused curiosity and she wondered, have I seen you before? The point is, this is what you're talking about.

See, for a lot of people, they say that would be the scariest thing in the world! How can it be scary to notice someone and love them? You know what made my heart leap when you started talking? Taking hot dogs out. Who are you taking those to?

Caroline: The homeless! The homeless on the streets of Los Angeles; the food that we serve or the things that we do to serve the streets is just an excuse to meet the people. We're not just fulfilling a physical need we're reaching out to their potential; that when the government has provided food, they've simply provided food.

But when we, as the body of Christ come in, we give them a reason to live, a hope for tomorrow, joy, healing, and eternal salvation. And you can provide for somebody's need but that still does not give them a reason to get up in the morning.

I'm in my 30s, early 30s, but I still run to my parents just for somebody to be proud of me or to help guide me. I can't imagine navigating through this life without somebody like that.

Betty: Everyone needs the encouragement. People want to feel like they're noticed or they matter in life.

James: You are noticing them when you take them those things. And they're ready to listen; aren't they when you showed them love?

Caroline: I believe, and something I share in my book, is that we all have a trigger. Every injustice around the world breaks our heart because we've been loved on by Christ, we have the love of Christ in us, every injustice breaks our heart.

But I believe every single one of God's children have a mandate by God to act as his ambassador in some way. The difference between something breaking your heart is when that trigger is pulled in your life and you think, okay, I see this and I can't let this happen without doing something about it.

So that happened for me when I was 18, I was volunteering at the Dream Center and I got a call from a social worker who said there was a family in need of food not too far away. What I saw that day changed my life. I walked in; it was a mom, 25, with eight children. Most of them were just in their diapers or underwear and there was no furniture in the house other than some couch cushions on the floor.

As soon as we walked in, the kids jumped in our arms and started eating raw zucchini. And I thought, how hungry are these kids that they're eating raw zucchini? Now I had grown up watching those heartbreaking commercials on TV of children starving around the world and they brought me to tears, but when I was in the home of a hungry child, face to face with a hungry child, my trigger was pulled and I thought, I can't know that this is happening and not do something about it.

So I went back to the Dream Center and I said, "Okay, for our food bank we need to get our food bank out into the streets." And we started our mobile food banks.

But when you work out of a passion like that, it is work that doesn't feel like work, and your passion over rides your fear, all the sudden you have time for it again because it is not work that feels like work. You can't wait to go out and be a part of the solution. Even though it will be something that breaks your heart so deeply, there will be such a great joy in knowing you're a part of the solution.

Betty: It's just like the missionaries that we work with at *LIFE Outreach*. People will say over again, "Oh, what a sacrifice!" And yes, it is but they don't feel that it is a

sacrifice because they get such great joy out of doing what God has called them to do, and to see the results of God working in their lives.

Caroline: I think a lot of people are scared to open up their heart to whatever that trigger might be. But God does not ask us to use our willingness at the expense of other areas of our life; and it is just one area of your life but it will make you so much better in every other area. So trust God that if he is asking you to do something, when he gave you your gifts and your talents, he had this mission in mind and it will just fulfill your life.

James: You know you explain this in detail. This is a wonderful book. It's in the bookstores. You have a web site too that can be accessed either related to the church or what God's showing you to do?

Caroline: Yes! DreamCenter.org.

James: And they can probably order the book from you, from the church there but also in the bookstores, get it. She actually shows you, just like I told you a few stories, I watched the audience their hearts leap because why? They eat. They eat around people -- notice people. That's what you're doing.

You know what? Our viewers help the Dream Center start serving food. Viewers that had never been to L.A. but who had seen us feeding children in Africa or some other needy area and we said, "Here are needy people here."

By the way, we're encouraging ministries like that all the time and the church that Betty and I are a part of, we're helping inner city ministries everywhere because we want to help. That's the only thing that works where there's compassion connections. You inspire people to see we can start here. You give them so many inspirational stories and show them the after-effect and I can tell you Caroline, that our viewers love praying for you at the Dream Center, helping you, and they love giving food overseas and meeting a need because then they want to know, where did the love that prompted you to notice come from? It's just like when we give Water for Life, we can then tell them about the water of life. It's opening doors.

Do you appreciate Caroline's story and her journey and her love and her witness? I love the Dream Center. I love what's happening in Los Angeles. And we're going to look in now on a beautiful girl. We may be a little prejudice but this is our first grandchild. And I remember driving her where she was in the little car seat behind me and she would look up at me and she couldn't hold her head too still. And I held

her little face and I remember saying, "I'm looking forward to the day when you can look up at me and say, 'I love you, Papaw' because you love you so much!" That's the way it's been with all our children.

You know what? Our children and grandchildren love to love others. You're going to see our first grandchild, our oldest grandchild Laura, beautiful woman, beautiful girl in the Sudan. Listen to what she is saying.

On the mission field

Lora: I've watched my grandparents do mission work for years and their heart goes out to these people, they love these precious people so much. And now that I'm older and I can understand the need and see the need, my heart is the same, my heart goes out to these precious little kids. I want to help them too.

I went to Africa when I was ten and being a child, I don't think I really understood the desperation of these people and understood the needs of these kids.

Now that I'm older, it hurts to think about the fact that they don't know when they're going to eat next. I feel like I understand it so much more. I understand the hurt and the pain, and I want to see them not hurt anymore. I want to see them have hope in their eyes. I want to see them smile again. I want to see them look forward to tomorrow.

But we can be a part of giving them a future, of letting them enjoy their childhood. Mission feeding gives them a meal to eat every day. It allows them the opportunity to be children again, to play, to run, to have fun and not have to worry about trying to find something to eat. Mission feeding will save their life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty, there is no way for a grandparent to explain what that means to watch your grandchild and to just see her expressing love and seeing those beautiful little children.

Did you notice at the end, now think about this a minute, right there in the Sudan where we went when people were being killed, when we didn't know if we would get back alive. We went the first time with Franklin Graham, and we saw these emaciated bodies. And they saw some of them that you saw even there that Laura was referencing with, but at the end, in the Sudan, you saw some children with nice clothes on, they were at a school where we're now feeding them at school.

But in that same country, and we didn't put that in there but she saw it and you will see it some, these children have been driven out. Many of their parents have been killed by radical religious extremists.

And now then, South Sudan has become its own nation and it is a nation built on faith in Christ because of the seeds missionaries have sown, and it is the great resistance to radical, damaging, deadly, destructive forces of Islam where there's a terrorist mentality and dominance, and destroy the infidels -- but they are full of God. And Betty, she was right there showing us the need but we also got to see the effect of it.

Betty: Absolutely, James. Yes, we are blessed as grandparents to watch one of our grandchildren be over there and to love on these precious children; and the mothers that sit there too, Laura talked about she would like to see these children be able to have a meal, at least once a day, James, and to look forward to tomorrow.

Well, that's the heart of those mothers too as they watch their children's little bodies shrink up and die before them because they can't have enough food to take care of them. Please help us reach out and do that. We are blessed here in our country. For the most part, we get to eat several times a day. They're asking for help to have one good meal a day. Won't you help us do that?

James: You have been such a blessing over the years to help us feed hundreds of thousands and save millions of lives. Would you, right now during our mission feeding emphasis, would you reach out and touch someone with love by dialing that number or going online, LifeToday.org and make the largest love gift you can? Use your bankcard like a check.

Remember this, for \$30, \$50, or \$100, we can feed three, five, or ten children for the next months. We'll be able to give them food, like Betty said, every day for many months if you'll help.

Now we have gifts to send you to bless you to say thank you. The Christine Caine collection of teaching, and books, is available. I want to show you how to get it and it is going to bless you. We hope you'll get the commemorative bronze, "Brotherly Love." You're going to enable family members to feed their children or little brother or sister. You're going to give them the ability to live and we want to tell them about the source of life and the love that prompted it.

Would you dial that number right now please? Make the best gift you can. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*, but call us and tell us you're mailing it. Or again, you can go online. Father, I pray everyone watching will reach out right now and touch someone with love; in Jesus' name. Please make that love gift right now. And from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Africa, families are suffering, facing death by starvation, and those hit the hardest are their children.

Life's Mission Feeding program is there able to feed and care for over 400,000 children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. Our mission partners urgently need your support. Our food reserves are gone and we desperately need to replenish our supplies at more than 800 feeding centers immediately. Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months.

With your gift we'll send you *Moving Past Your Past*, a powerful new series featuring author and speaker Christine Caine. In Christ There are No Yesterdays, Only Tomorrows; in this series, Christine provides you with the keys to leaving your past behind and receiving all God has for your future.

For a gift of any amount you'll receive the audio CD series along with Christine's book, *Can I Have and Do It All, Please?* With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children, please request the entire teaching on both DVD and CD. And as a bonus, we'll send you Christine's latest book release, *Undaunted*.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed 100 children and you may request our 50th anniversary bronze sculpture, "Brotherly Love." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

On the mission field

>> One thing I did see this week that I had never seen before traveling on a mission trip was the intensity in the children's eyes. Simply, they are hungry all the time. And the thing is, it's almost that when I would hand them a bowl of food, they're so grateful for it, and it is almost like you see a little bit of fear in them too like this could be my last bowl.

And I think that's the thing that if I could have spoken their language, I would have said, "We'll be here tomorrow. We're committed to you. You don't have to be afraid."

But as long as people do their part, as long as we stay committed to these children, we will keep showing up every day. Please consider partnering with me and *LIFE Outreach* today. Don't hesitate. Now's our opportunity to do something -- to change a world, to change a life, to change a child.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I do want you to remember you get the entire Christine Caine collection of the teachings and the DVD and the books, if you'll help us care for ten children. Why don't you consider tacking on another \$10 or \$15 to give all of them a bowl? And then if you can give \$1,000 we want you to ask for the "Brotherly Love" bronze. You're going to touch so many people with the love of God. And we ask you to help us do that.

I want to say thank you so much for doing it. I also want to remind you about Caroline Barnett's book, *Willing to Walk on Water*. She, her family, and their church in the Los Angeles area is sharing the love of God, not in word only but in action. She's an inspiration. Get the book, read it, it will be a blessing to you. Join us saying thanks to Caroline. Caroline, you're a blessing! You tell Matthew how much we love him, and you tell everybody at the Dream Center that; will you? Thank all of you so much! Thank you for putting arms of love around a world in great need of a hug!