

1/27/14

Week 5: Water for Life

James and Betty Robison

Aaron and Amanda Crabb

James: Hey! Thank all of you so much. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you and have this opportunity to share with you.

Years ago we had the entire Crabb family and they're great singers. They have now begun to minister in different areas, still musicians, still singing doing different things. I have Aaron and Amanda Crabb; Aaron was with the original family that came here when they were together. He actually is singing with his wife, Amanda.

Interestingly, they told us that they really didn't know she was a singer. They got real excited when they found out she was a singer.

[Laughter]

I don't think that's the reason the family split because she could sing so well that they knew this couple would go. But Aaron and Amanda are also praise leaders at Cornerstone Church where John Hagee pastors in San Antonio. Well, this interesting story with Amanda and Aaron really... some things began to unfold that kind of caught you off guard. You had something happen. Did your daughter's fall precede the let's say the uncovering of some of the things?

Amanda: It happened after. We had not had children yet. God allowed me to go through healing before children.

James: So what we're going to actually talk about happened but you nearly lost your little daughter. Tell us briefly what happened to her?

Amanda: We did. Eva, she was two years old. She turned two in February and in April, Aaron and I were at the Dove Awards and got a horrific phone call that no parent ever wants to receive, and you don't even think that it will happen to you. Got the call that Eva has fallen out of my window, which was a second story apartment about 15 feet. I remember hanging up the phone and just taking off running.

And Aaron goes, "Where are you going?"

Just in shock I turned to him and I said, "Eva has fallen out of the window."

He goes, "What? Is she alive?"

At that moment I didn't even know. So I stopped and called back and they said, "She is alive but she is completely covered in blood and her head is completely split open."

Aaron: She had hit an air-conditioning unit and it split her head open and severed her lip from her jawbone.

Amanda: So after a very, very, very long night in the hospital of trying to get tests and not knowing the outcome because it could have been extremely severe, long term damage, God's supernatural power came into that trauma unit and supernaturally touched our baby.

The doctor said, "We can't get the test done until you calm her down."

So we began to sing to her. We always thought we knew the power of worship and the true heart of worship, and in fact, until that moment, we had no clue. Because we didn't know the outcome of what that situation was going to be but we were compelled to tell God how holy he was with our hands raised and tears falling and that child went into the most peaceful sleep.

In the middle of nowhere ministering angels came down; you could feel it. And the tests came back that all was well after they sewed her up. They had to do some plastic surgery on her mouth.

But honestly, a week later the doctor looked at us and he was like, "She did not fall 15 feet." He said, "That child looks like she had fallen running down the sidewalk."

So God is so good and she's six years old. She is vibrant, loves to sing. God, this will someday be her story and I believe that she'll be a world changer with what God has done.

James: I believe it too. I want you to tell, now, your story that nobody knew. I don't know, Aaron, whether you want to start or if she just takes off. But something got

revealed in her that she didn't think anybody must ever know and if they ever knew she would never be loved.

Amanda: I think that's the one trick of the enemy is... I was abused and the one thing that those people said, "You better never say a word." So it started there. To keep quiet -- to keep quiet -- shove it under the rug -- shove it back.

James: Started when you were how old?

Amanda: I was five and it went on 'til I was about nine.

James: And it went with several different people?

Amanda: Yeah, with several different people. So I carried this shame that I couldn't talk about; I couldn't tell anyone about. I tried to keep it together at a very young age on the outside when on the inside I was dying. So I never thought that I would have a happy home, never thought that I would deserve the kind of love that my heart desired.

We always think, once upon a time and the happily ever after, I never dreamed that that would be mine. So when I met Aaron I told him enough about my story for me to somewhat sleep at night but he knew very little about where I had been and what had happened to me, and the shame that I carried. I was damaged goods, and therefore, my life didn't matter.

So after about two years of marriage, of just pure torment from the enemy taunting me, "Look at you traveling around in this world-renown ministry and your husband doesn't even know who you are."

On one end he is telling me, "You can't ever tell him because what will they think of you?" And on the other end, "Look at you! Because you won't tell them they don't even know who you are." It was this constant torment.

So I screamed out to God after about two years of marriage and I said, "God, if you don't do something in my life, I will walk. I will leave because abandonment and all of this stuff that I so feared, I told God, "I'd rather walk, because when he finds out, he'll walk and I don't want to be the one left standing."

So after screaming that out to God, I walked off our bus. My job was to kind of man the product table at that point because nobody knew I sang.

[Laughter]

So this lady came up to this product table in Central City, Kentucky, and we had never met her, didn't know her, and when she came up she stood in front of me and she gasped. And she put her hand over her chest and she said, "Can I speak with you?"

I said, "Sure."

She said, "We need to go somewhere private."

Well, this was an outside event. So we found ourselves that night behind a nursing home on an embankment. That woman told me everything about my life that I had never spoken to another human being. Only the things that God and I knew. And when she did that I laid in that woman's lap and she just stroked my hair for two hours, and I cried like I don't think I will ever cry again in my life.

After two hours, she said, "Now that you have emptied yourself of all of that junk, I'm going to pray that God's presence fills every crevice and every crack." And that day God supernaturally changed my life forever.

That night God saved my marriage. That night God saved the children that I had not even given birth to yet. The power of God was so real. I really didn't even know what I was experiencing. I was raised in a non-denominational church but we didn't practice that. But it was so real and so tangible that when Aaron... they were looking for me. Probably a bunch of people got free product that night in Kentucky. I'm not sure who was handling that.

[Laughter]

But they were looking for me and when I came around that corner, this is where he can tell you that I was instantly -- he knew I was different.

Aaron: There was a total -- her countenance had changed. She knew God but I could tell God had visited her in a different way. All she wanted to do was pray with people. She came up and just wanted to pray with everybody she could. I could tell. Just the whole process, when we got home she would be in her prayer closet -- literally in her closet; shutting her door and just allowing God to minister to her.

Amanda: I took Matthew 6:6 as my verse: But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet.

And I physically, that was my sanctuary, that was my counseling session, that was the place that God met me. I didn't pay money for counseling. I didn't sit and tell another human being. He was the teacher of all teachers and he taught me that he loved me and that I was worthy of love.

It was about six months before I fully shared the story with my husband because I wanted God to just completely help me how to do this. And when I did, my husband was Christ to me. He loved me as Christ loved the church. And he wrapped his arms around me and he said, "Why in the world would you ever think I couldn't love you? That was not your shame." He was Christ to me that night.

And as we sat, I'll never forget it. We were in our bathroom floor and we were just weeping and crying. I'm like, "Why did I wait so long to tell it?" But after about a year of my healing process, God then said, "Now I want you to go tell your story." And I argued with God as I often do. And I said, "But God! I worked so hard keeping it private. I told Aaron! Isn't that what you wanted? My marriage is okay."

And God said, "I want you to tell your story."

And I said, "What would I even say? How do you just say that, God?"

And he told me to go read the story in John chapter 11 of Lazarus. And as I'm reading I'm finding myself going, "God, how does this apply to me? The man died and he's laying there and you're going to raise him up. I don't get it."

Then I get to the part where Martha met Jesus and she said, "If you would have been here this wouldn't have happened." And then his story goes on and Mary met him and she says, "If you would have been here my brother would still be alive." And instantly, I had flashbacks of that teenage girl because I knew the Word of God said that he would never leave me nor forsake me but he would be with me even until the end. The Word of God said that he had plans for a future and a hope. But God, if you are what your word says you are, where were you and how could you allow that to happen to me? And I had flashbacks of that moment and I wept before the Lord in my closet floor.

And he looked at Mary and he says, "Where have you laid him?" He knew where he was laid. There's another translation that said, "Take me to where you have laid him -- take me to the place where you have laid him." So I had to take Christ to that place that I had hidden, that I had sealed the door, the place where my innocence, my purity, all of those hopes and dreams had died. And when he cracked the seal I said, "But God it's going to stink. It's going to wreak havoc in my atmosphere for a moment."

But when he speaks and he calls those things forth, it doesn't matter how bound you are, they have to loose you and let you go. It's a matter of having the courage to take him to that dead dried up place.

And when we were in Israel I wrote -- you know how you put a prayer on the western wall. I wrote all these things that I wanted to see fulfilled. This was this year. Now my healing took place ten years ago but Aaron and I write songs and we wrote that song. I wrote on the bottom of the prayer and said, "God, I'm ready to be creative for your glory again." Because the whole purpose of Lazarus's story was for his glory to be revealed. I know the glory of God like I do because of what I went through. I don't understand it. I don't know why people have to face things. We don't have to but his glory is so real in my life.

James: And you wrote the song, This Mercy, Take Me to the Place. Would you like to hear them sing this beautiful song on mercy? We would love for you to sing it. I would love for you to sing this to us. We want you to do that.

To the place where dreams were shattered
And you felt you lost the race
Where the only thing that's left
Is sorrow and pain
You wondered if you mattered
Or did anyone see you at all
Take him to the place
Watch dead things live again
With one touch of his grace
And it's all washed away
He's calling out your name
It doesn't matter where you've been
Or whatever you have faced
Don't be afraid to take him to the place
There's a place where hope is given
Where you're free from sin and shame

Where he heals your broken heart

And he speaks new life again
Where his love is ever drawing
To a place where you'll never be alone
Alone

Take him to the place
And watch dead things live again
Where one touch of his grace
And it's all washed away
He's calling out your name
It doesn't matter where you've been
Or whatever you have faced
Don't be afraid

Let him heal your heart
Give you a new start
You'll find life brand new

Oh, yes
He will calm all fears
Wipe away your tears
Show you love so true
Just take him to the place
Watch dead things live again
Where one touch of his grace
And it's all washed away
He's calling out your name
It doesn't matter where you've been

Or whatever you have faced
Don't be afraid
Just take him to the place
Take him to the place
Take him to the place
He'll heal you there
Yes, he will
To the place

James: Let me just say thanks to both of you. We just see Jesus. Amanda, we see Jesus. Aaron, we see Jesus.

And to all of you, listen to me please, God wants to take you to the place. He really wants to take you to the place. Wherever it is you've been hurt, wherever you're stuck.

Father, take every viewer to the place so you can raise them. Would you just ask him to do that? Would you just say, "Jesus, raise me to new life? New beginning? Forgive me, cleanse me, take away the hurt, take away the past, blot it out -- just give me a new beginning."

I do want to tell you, their incredible CD is in the bookstores, music stores. Get it. If they wanted to go online, do they go to Cornerstone and get it? Or do you have a web site?

Aaron: You can go to DifferenceMedia.org and order it or you can do it on iTunes as well.

James: I hope you'll do it. I just love y'all. Y'all are beautiful.

Don't you agree? You see just the beauty of the Lord in them?

I see the resurrection power in both of you.

John Hagee, God bless you! Boy, for the Lord to bless your church like he has, and with this beautiful couple, your music program all there, thanks John! Thanks for sharing this couple with people all over the country like I know you do; and just bless Cornerstone, bless you there in San Antonio.

We love to bless people. Our mission programs are as great a joy as anything we've ever done. And they're a joy to our viewers. I want you to just look right now around the world and see how we together can put God's arms around the hurting, literally. You talk about rescue the perishing, and care for the dying, we can give people life. We can meet them at the place where they are and give them hope and help and you're going to want to do it.

On the mission field

Announcer: The death of a child is the tragic result of having no choice but to drink contaminated water. Waterborne illness is a killer that knows no boundaries.

Miriam lives in a shack in Central America. She had to watch her son die in her arms because the only water source she has is a contaminated river.

On a windswept hill in Madagascar, small graves serve as a painful reminder to the grieving parents that had to give their children dirty water to drink.

Pitch is a young mother from a small village in Cambodia. She knows the water she collects is filled with contaminants but she has no other options. One of her children has already died and the other is sick.

Thousands of miles away in drought-stricken Angola, the rural hospitals cannot keep up with the number of children dying from waterborne diseases.

Stories like these are all too common to thousands of families living in poverty around the world. They desperately need someone to share the gift of life with them -- the gift of clean water.

[Water splashing]

[Children laughing]

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, that's a beautiful picture! That scene of that mother weeping with one child there, with another one already gone. Knowing how much she would like to have that baby back and how she doesn't want to lose another.

Betty and I losing Robin after Christmas, and some of you knew about her battle for life with cancer. I don't think there is a viewer of *LIFE Today* anywhere in the world that if you could have gotten to our daughter that wouldn't have said, "I've got the answer, and this will really work." You think it wouldn't have made Betty and me happy, and her children, and her husband, and the rest of her siblings?

Well, believe me when I tell you, we have the perfect cure for what ails most of those children you just saw. Betty, we went from country to country to country, and we are deliberately targeting purposely 12 nations that the missionaries have pointed us to situations like some of those you just saw where they desperately need water and we know it is there.

In other words, it is accessible. It is not like false hope. All we need to do is put a well in, case it, to keep it clean, give them a mechanical pump and, Betty, they've got the miracle. The miracle we as parents hoped for, the miracle those parents hope for and that mother was hoping for that was holding that little child.

Betty: Absolutely, James. And as I saw that mother sitting there with one baby in her arms, and wiping the tears away from her face because she had lost one, I know what those tears feel like, the pain feels like. That mother is hurting because of the child she lost but she doesn't want to lose the other child. This child can be saved if we will just get the water wells dug and the pure clean water to them. It is a simple way but it has to be done. She's done all she knows she can do. She still has to give her child that dirty water, contaminated water because that's all they've got. But we can offer a choice, a difference for them. Won't you please help us do this?

James: Yeah, we can fulfill the hope and longing in her heart and we can heal the hurt in the future and I'm asking you to do it. I want you to just get up and move from wherever you are, go online, LifeToday.org or just go over to the telephone, get your purse or your wallet or whatever and get your bankcard or you can go get a checkbook. I'd like you to do it now.

If you make a check, make it to *LIFE*. If you pick up the phone, call us and tell us what you're giving. And use your bankcard like a check or you can go to LifeToday.org and do it.

But here's the thing, we are asking God with your help to be able to drill 500 wells this year, the most ever in a year in 12 countries. Some of you could drill one. I told you years ago, Betty and I committed, God, we want to drill one every time the call comes. Please help us, and boy, he has. We've been able to do it; sometimes more because we ask God to let us do it.

So you may be able to do it. If you can give a well do it or a portion of a well, \$1200 and three people join you, we've got a well; \$2400 just one person join you; \$48 -- yes, a gift of \$48, ten people water the rest of their life! \$144 -- 30 people.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you but you're giving the greatest gift of all, you are giving people a chance at life and we're going to tell them about the life of God to be found in Christ, the love that prompted the gift of the water. Water for Life, we're going tell you about the water of life. It is the water of life inspiring us to give you life.

Would you please go to the phone right now or go online? Make the gift God put on your heart. We'll send some special gifts to you to bless you and to say thank you.

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 5 people. A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 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 the *Awaken Now* audio series, a once-in-a-lifetime gathering of 23 anointed speakers proclaiming a powerful message for every believer in God's kingdom. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request *Awaken Now* on both audio and video, along with the companion book containing the speaker's sermons and encouraging messages.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4,800 to help sponsor a complete well. And be sure to request our new commemorative sculptured glass statue, "The Blessing."

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio

James: You make any gift today to help us give water, we want to send you *Mercy*; we want to send you this CD. The Crabbs want us to do that. They want to say thank you for giving water. We're going to be meeting people at the place of their need, that's what God does.

Thank you both!

Let's say thanks again to them. And all of you who watch *LIFE Today* and all of you who have helped us, thank you from the bottom of our heart in behalf of all the people you touch. We love you!