

7/11/14
Week 28
WFL Mission Program #1

In the studio:

James: I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. There's several times a year that we put things before our viewers that I think really move people to compassion and action as effectively as you could ever hope and pray for related to any particular need. The thing that all of our viewers have told us that they get the most excited about doing because it is an involvement and a gift and a participation that lasts for a lifetime, and it saves so many lives, and Betty, that is giving Water for Life.

So I know that if you watch *LIFE Today* you recognize and are aware that every program we not only seek to share life with you, and inspiration and help, but we also encourage you to share life, love, truth, and hope with people all over the world in a very tangible and meaningful way. And sharing water is a gift that lasts a lifetime.

We offer you gifts and one of them -- to say thank you -- one of the gifts that I'm really, really excited about right now, and this was actually written by our oldest granddaughter, Lora, and it is a children's book and it is called *Children at the Well*: The joy of clean water. It is one of those touch-and-feel books, Betty that little children really like. I think that it's the kind of thing that a grandmother or a mom or dad could just enjoy sitting down and sharing with her children.

Betty: Children, especially when they're small, they love to touch and feel -- I love to touch and feel! I think it's a great book!

James: It's got fur -- that's fur in it right there.

Betty: It does! It just gets their attention and then they'll listen to the story and they'll go back through it and back through it. I think it is a great opportunity for parents or for grandmothers like me, when our grandchildren were small, I loved to read books

to them and they would sit and listen. This is just a great opportunity to see the action in...

James: Show them how this little water bucket moves.

Betty: Yeah, the water pail moves back and forth and they'll do that and they'll feel all the different material that's on the book and everything, and they will talk to you about it. I just think it is a wonderful way to get children into God's word, James, and to learn the stories and to know what it is to give and to share.

James: You know, Lora, the granddaughter that contributed to this book and helped plan it has recently married and I know she is looking forward to having their children very soon. I can tell you that's what they're excited about. They want that. It is something that you can use with children to inspire them to think about someone other than themselves.

I love the things that we do for our viewers to say thank you. And I do mention this because it is true; none of our viewers ever make a gift to get a gift. You give to give. You give to bless. But we give to you to bless and inspire you because we love you. As much as we want to give water to those who are thirsty or food to those who are hungry, we want to give spiritual refreshing and inspiration to you, our viewers. We do that as an expression of our gratitude for the love you've shared with others, and then we share a love with you to help you grow.

Women at the Well has 32 refreshing devotions by the women that you have seen on *LIFE Today* over the years. Many of them are very well known. Of course you're going to hear from Beth Moore but you're also going to hear from our daughters and our daughter-in-law. You're going to be blessed by what you hear. You'll like what Betty shares and the others share. So this is a daily devotional that will bless you.

Then the journal that we're sending is I think probably one of the most important things people will use along with their Bible. I don't know of anything that helped me anymore in my spiritual journey than to begin journaling the impressions God makes on my mind and my heart when I'm reading scripture or when I'm just praying or

something happens or a thought just comes to my mind and I'll write it down, and that sentence oftentimes becomes a paragraph or even a chapter in a book or a sermon. For you it would become an opportunity to meditate, express your appreciation to God, and also, to be able to write your thoughts and then communicate your thoughts. When you write something that's in your mind, it's more firmly implanted in your thinking and your processes in your mind of communication and you'll begin to share those things with others.

So we're sending you some gifts to say thank you for helping us share water. I want you to look in right now. I want you to hear a grandmother. We're talking about grandmothers blessing their children and parents blessing their children and seeing their children begin to think about others and the joy of giving water and the importance of water. Here is a grandmother who understands fully the importance of water and what it means and the danger that comes from contaminated water. Please watch this very prayerfully.

Video clip:

Announcer: The Bible says that gray hair is a sign of wisdom and gives prestige to old age. And when most of us reach the so-called golden years, we yearn for a lifestyle of leisure and pleasure. But for this proud grandmother who lives in a poverty-stricken village in Honduras, life has some different priorities. Her name is Petrona and she spends several hours a day walking to collect water for her family. While this hike is tragic enough for a woman like Petrona, the heartbreaking reality is the water she is collecting is contaminated and potentially life-threatening to her grandchildren.

Open Captions: We come here several times a day to get our drinking water. It takes us so many hours because we have to stop because it's so steep. The sickness starts with runny noses; then a bad flu disease with diarrhea and vomiting. Even us old people get stomach pains. I would kneel down and thank the Lord if we got clean water. Even though I'm old and probably won't be here much longer, my grandchildren would use the new water well.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Petrona you are thinking in the right way. And sweet lady, I know you don't get to see this television program but God heard your heart and we heard it and I believe viewers all over the world are hearing what you expressed. And you said you don't know that you'll be around a long time to enjoy the clean water but you sure do want it for your grandchildren and for others.

And that really is the way that I feel, it is the way Betty and I feel about the things in our own wonderful country here in the United States, the blessings we have, we want them to be here for others and we're in the process of losing them and I think it is because we don't keep God first and we need to get him first. When he's first, then others matter because if you love God, you love your neighbor.

We want to help that precious woman. We want to be an answer, Betty to that grandmother's prayers, her hopes and her dreams, which are not for herself but for those children.

Betty: And that is the heart of a mother and a grandmother, thinking of your children or your grandchildren. You want them to have better than what you possibly had and she wants a future for her grandchildren. So let's give it to her. Let's help with the water wells and let's do the best we can because out of the flowing love in our hearts, it will be expressed to them and they can come to know the Jesus that we know.

James: I'm going to ask you to look in on another scene right now. Think about this a moment, 4,000 children are dying every day because of contaminated water. I want you to look into one of the areas where we, by the grace of God, with your help will drill a well. Just listen to what's going on there. Just think about this. This is reality. This isn't some dramatic enactment. It is not something we put together. It's just reality. It is what our mission teams and our missionaries see. We are the answer to the particular challenges referenced here. Watch this very prayerfully.

On the mission field***Open Captions:***

>> Every day over 4,000 children die from a water-related disease.

>> My name is Bun Toeun. I know mostly I don't have clean water. I use water that everybody uses, even the cattle. I had four children, but two of my boys died. I worked hard to get the money for the hospital, but it didn't matter how hard I tried. My two babies died. My dream is for clean water. If I would have had clean water to drink, then my two children wouldn't be dead today.

>> In the 60 seconds it took Bun Toeun to share her story, 3 more children died from contaminated water.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: While she shared the story, that length of time, three more children died. We can stop the cycle in that area. We can be the miracle that is hoped for, that's prayed for, that the missionaries long to see become a reality -- the miracle of clean water.

Now I want you to consider what I'm saying to you. The average -- and I don't know how long it is going to stay this way -- the average cost to drill a well is \$4800. Now please understand. There's some areas where it is very shallow and you can get to the water maybe in a couple hundred of feet and it is good water. Sometimes it is several hundred feet, sometimes it is deeper. But the average right now for the 500 wells in 20 countries, I think you know this, the areas where we drill are the areas where we've been directed to that location by the missionaries who are working with the people who see their need and they tell us there is no greater need than for clean water in areas. It is the thing that changes everything for every person in a village, and \$4800 is what it takes.

Now that well will provide all the water, basically for a lifetime, for 1,000 people; that's the average village that we'll be serving. And we go into the remote areas. Now if we go into a population center then we target the different areas. Sometimes we have drilled much deeper, and actually pumped the water into a holding tank, and then we're able to take care of far more people, but then that well is far more expensive. But it all averages out to \$4800. That's why many people like you will make it a goal to drill a well every year. Betty and I made that our goal. When we started they were

\$3600, then it went to \$4800. But we asked God to enable us to do it and then with the things that have come our way, we've been able to do it -- and we've been able to even do beyond that! And we praise God -- it was an answer to prayer for us. But it all started with "just start somewhere."

Could you drill a well? \$4800 we've got a well; it's a gift that keeps giving for a lifetime. It changes everything! And it opens the hearts and minds of the people who have received Water for Life to listen to the truth about the water of life, about Christ. So when you make that gift, it makes an eternal impact; it is a kingdom impact. Would you right now simply go to the phone or go online LifeToday.org or dial that number, take your bankcard, use it like a check. Make the largest gift you can. I'm asking if you can drill a well.

Remember this, \$1200, pray for three to join you; \$2400, pray for one other person to join you and we've got a well; at whatever level you can help. And the majority of people -- Betty, I think it is really important for every viewer to know, the majority of the resources that come for the wells come from people who will give \$48 and that gives ten people Water for Life, that's how it breaks down. Or you can give \$144 and give 30 people Water for Life. There is a level at which you can participate.

Now we have some gifts that we're sending to you to say thank you. We're sending the *Children at the Well*, which will be a tremendous blessing, the *Women at the Well*, and the journal, and you will see there in a moment the various breakdowns. We ask you for a special gift and we are sending gifts to you to bless you and to say thank you.

We have a beautiful sculpture that is a glass sculpture called "The Blessing" for those of you who will give \$1200 or more toward a well or give a well, as well as the other gifts to be a blessing to you.

Would you right now very prayerfully... Father, I pray that you would excite people about the joy and privilege of giving life, changing everything for someone, and knowing that not only will we give the Water for Life, but we will point to the water of life very clearly, not just in word, but in deed; in Jesus' name.

I believe God is directing you. I'm praying everyone watching will simply do what you can. If you can give a well, I know you're going to rejoice to do it. We have couples who do that, Bible study groups, and even churches -- and even children will go to work amazingly to raise the money to pay for a well. That's one of the reasons that we share the *Children at the Well*: The joy of clean water -- showing children the importance of others and how important water is. Thank you so much for going to the phone or going online and thank you for giving what God put on your heart.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children of all ages 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 effective life-saving demonstrations of God's love you could ever be a part of. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything.

With your gift today, you can help establish and drill 500 new water wells for remote villages impacting over 20 nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five 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 new *Children at the Well* interactive book to help your little ones understand the blessing of clean water, as well as the *Women at the Well* daily devotional with 32 refreshing devotionals for your quiet time. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request this beautiful leather journal to help capture your personal times with God.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and you may request our commemorative sculpture glass statue "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

Begin video clip

Tammy: When we walk into these villages they basically are just looking at us asking, "Can you help? Can you do something? We need help!"

>> She is saying like we don't have another one. What to do? We need to use this one.

Announcer: For children of poverty, gathering at a pond or a stream to have fun is not the reason they are there. It's for the purpose of survival. Without water, these children and their families would not live more than a week. And when they have no other choice but to drink contaminated water, illness, and all too often death become the bitter consequence of that inescapable choice.

Tammy: Not one child has ever said, "The water is perfect, the water is great! I'm feeling fine." Child after child, same story, they're struggling.

Announcer: Our mission teams have spoken with heartbroken families from Cambodia in the heart of Asia, to Madagascar on the east coast of Africa, in rural villages of Central America and India, whose children's waterborne illnesses were so severe they died before anything could be done to save them. So massive is the problem of contaminated water that every 20 seconds a child dies from a waterborne illness.

Tammy: Time is of essence. There's hundreds of thousands of children dying every year because of contaminated water. Let's change that for them. Let's be the change. Let's do something now. Let's not wait 'til it's too late -- 'til we lose another child who can't do anything about it -- 'til we lose another family. We can do something now. We have an opportunity to be life to so many people who need it so desperately through fresh clean water.

End of clip**In the studio:**

Betty: Did you hear her? Twenty seconds -- every twenty seconds a life is lost -- a precious life that God loves so much. Please help us! Do what you can do and do it now -- time is of the essence. Don't wait please!

James: It's really hard to imagine that even while we're talking lives are being snuffed out and so needlessly. We're not talking about something that is extraordinary and

extravagant. We're not talking about something that's prohibitive even for us to all to participate in -- there is a level at which we can participate.

We know there are huge population centers where they need water and we know that's going to be a massive undertaking. But we're praying and interestingly, Betty, the simple things that we've been doing for years have not only been effective in enabling us, with our mission workers, and the drilling teams that you prepared all the drilling equipment for, you paid for it over the years and put it in place, not only giving those wells but inspiring ministries and other organizations to also begin drilling wells.

It is as though LIFE Outreach has been an inspiration to many ministries to look beyond their borders and to reach out to the ends of the earth not just with a gospel message but with a demonstration of God's love. So your support of what God's called us to do like giving these wells and these 500 different locations this year, it has inspired many other ministries and churches and individuals and even businesses to begin helping drill wells. I believe ultimately, it will lead to providing Water for Life in areas of large population centers, and then knowing that it came because of the love of God. What an incredible way to spread the gospel, the good news of Jesus.

Would you dial the number right now please? Or go to LifeToday.org, and many people are doing that. Betty, it is amazing how many people go online and make a gift. You shop online a lot rather than going to all the stores, I know you enjoy that some, but you really do a lot of shopping and you're able to buy something that you need or something that we must have even around the house. So it is amazing what you can do online. Well, you can save lives by going online and saying, "Here's my gift today." Use your bankcard like it is a check. But you can also... And thank God for those of you who write a check and make it to LIFE or you go and dial that number and take your bankcard and use it like a check; if you write a check, call us and tell us what you're sending.

Please remember this; I think it is very important that you remember exactly what the cost is. \$4800 we've got a well. If you can give a well do it. Give part of a well \$1200 or

\$2400, pray for three people or another person to join you and we've got the \$4800. \$48 ten people water the rest of their life -- that's how it breaks out; \$144, 30 people.

We have gifts to send you that will bless you. You're going to like the book for children. Some of you might say our grandchildren are older, our children are older, but I bet you know someone with a child and they're going to like this. This is one of those touch-and-feel books. You can slide this water bucket here on the little red ribbon like a rope. You can feel the texture and there's a child here walking on a road; you can feel how rough the surface of the road is. It is just really neat. There it is; you can feel the rough road and little children will do that. They'll just touch it and feel it. They get excited about it.

Betty: I know as a grandparent I'm always looking for things that I thought our grandchildren would enjoy when they would come over to see us because you want to be able to have things that they can do and be active with and I just think this is a blessing, especially for the younger children. They can learn what it means and how important it is to have clean water and that other children need it too. James, it's what's been so beautiful in all of our water well drilling is that children do get involved in it because they'll hear about the need for children to have clean water and they'll want to help in some way. And it's just been a real blessing!

James: It is! Any time you show a child a need that they can be involved in meeting, their hearts leap. That's really what this is all about. And then the devotions by women, 32 devotions by many of the women you have seen on *LIFE Today*, and the journal, as well as the beautiful "The Blessing" glass sculpture. All of these are gifts to say thank you for giving the greatest gift, the gift of life. Thank you for making that call. Thank you for going online.

Begin video clip

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End of clip

On the mission field

James: This mother has four children. Last summer a year ago, they had an outbreak of intestinal disease from contaminated water. Two of her children got very, very sick.

Now she's got a little baby just a few months old and this baby is living on her mother's milk, this baby is nursing. Betty, pretty soon this little baby is going to be drinking that water and oftentimes it takes their lives.

Betty: It really does, James. And they can't do anything about it because it's all the water they have. I can't even imagine! This little baby is so precious, so beautiful! Do you know that there is 10,000 people a day that die from the waterborne diseases, and

most of them are children five and under? We can stop that. We can make the difference by doing the water wells and giving them a fresh cup of water.

James: I'd like you to be one of the hands to reach out and dial the telephone number and take your bankcard and use it like a check or write a check and make it to *LIFE* and say "I want to give life to children like this and keep them healthy."

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I say from the bottom of our heart, in behalf of so many children and so many people and families, thank you. And the missionaries say thank you. They say you who watch *LIFE Today* in their opinion have got to be the greatest Christians on the planet because you reach out to the ends of the earth and enable them to be the hands of Jesus ministering life and love to the suffering. Thank you for making it possible. God bless you!