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Week 45: Fall Mission Feeding

Mission Special #1

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! This is a very special program because it is very special needs. I'm Betty Robison and this is James.

James: Well, we're going to give you the opportunity of making all the difference in someone's life that one could ever imagine or hope for. Its one thing to have wishful thinking, it is one thing to have dreams and hopes, but it is another thing to really provide reality and meaning in a situation that changes everything. In other words, fulfill the hope -- show them hope's end result: everything is changed, everything is better.

We see our dreams and our prayers fulfilled. I really think sometimes, and I don't want you to misunderstand me when I say this, sometimes we will call for prayer or we will have a prayer meeting, which you know you really can't pray too much, but I think sometimes you can call for prayer and if you're not careful it could be a cop out. It could be dismissing ourselves from actually being an answer to a prayer.

O God, do something to change things in our community or our nation or in our church -- but then do you ever put feet to those prayers? Do you ever really seek to become the answer to the prayers prayed if it is possible for you to be the answer?

One thing, Betty, we know for sure. When people are praying, as missionaries do, for the ability to assist the suffering effectively, to point them to life; and when they talk about love, to show them what it looks like -- a demonstration of it. In other words, if they're going to say they care they need to first show them they care before they try to tell them how much they care; tell them about love by showing them love, by demonstrating it.

Here's the thing that I pray you'll see. If you want the fullness of God's blessings in your life, seek to release the full impact of those blessing in the lives of others. Be an answer to prayer and watch how rapidly God answers your prayer. Now, here you're about to witness during the course of this program very real needs and known positive, incredibly transforming, miraculous results as the result of someone expressing love.

I want you to listen to a young man who has become quite successful who actually started working with us years ago, ended up going to the mission field, changed his life, has continued to have that life-changing effect even as he continues on in his life and in business. Listen to this incredible testimony because it can very easily be yours.

Begin video clip

Announcer: He's the owner of a highly successful tortilla business. But nearly a decade ago Steve Martinez helped feed people in very different and desperate circumstances.

Steve: Well, I worked for *LIFE Outreach*, I worked with them for seven years, was on the mission field feeding children so I got to see where the money was going, how much of an impact it was making.

Announcer: While Steve and his wife Sarah have always supported Mission Feeding, over time much of their attention shifted to raising two young boys until the recently saw a little boy named Lazarus on a *Life Today* program.

Steve: He's five years old and he was laying there in bed – on his deathbed. He was skin and bones. Janice, the photographer for *Life Outreach* snapped some pictures of him and on the camera there is a viewfinder and the little boy asked, "Can I see the picture?" So she turned the camera to him to show him and he just looked at it. We just lost it because how many times have our kids, my little five year old boy Maverick has asked me, "Daddy, can I see the picture? Can I see it?" So my wife and I really felt like the Lord showed us a part of His heart for these children and He led me to

scripture in Ezekiel that talks about Sodom and Gomorrah. And the Lord says of Sodom and Gomorrah, "Their sin was being overfed and unconcerned and they did not remember the poor or the needy."

Announcer: As Steve's thriving factory continues to turn out thousands of tortillas each day, he is directing even more of his profits to food factories half a world away.

Steve: These kids don't need a cure. They just need food. My wife and I support *LIFE Outreach* because we have seen the need firsthand and we know how effective *LIFE Outreach* has been in meeting that need.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, thank you, Lord, first but thank you, Steve and Sarah! Boy, you and I prayed a lot together. Even those prayers, probably led you to Sarah, that beautiful relationship and those two little boys. It really touched my heart, Steve, to just listen to your heart. And you talked about that little boy.

We're facing a situation that is a lot of little Lazaruses right now in Angola. They've had a terrible drought; one of the worst in history and the children are dying of malnutrition. We've got 400,000 children right now that we've located that must be fed. Just dial the number you'll see there in a few moments and say here it is or go online to LifeToday.org and say, "Here is that \$1,000 gift." Please consider this.

Betty, it's so wonderful, when you see a child and you know you can save that child's life, and then when you hear a couple talk about the joy of doing it. But when you and I look out, we see all the missionaries facing all these little children and facing these mothers that are trying to get their child to some food and we realize God wants to take all of them in his arms, he wants the missionaries to be there with not only full hearts but with full hands of assistance. And it can only happen if the people out here will use their hand and have a heart like Steve and Sarah to say we want to care for the

other children like we'd care for our own, and make a gift. That's what we're asking you to do. We're asking for every viewer to dial the number, take your bankcard, use it like a check or go to LifeToday.org and make the largest gift you can. If it's \$1,000 or if it's \$30, \$50, or \$100 to feed three, five, or ten children, that's what we need. We need everyone to do, as I so often say, fulfill your part in God's heart and that's the way the missionaries could do their part.

Betty: I know what we've just shown you. It's hard to watch. It's for us to look at. And it would be doubly hard if we knew we couldn't change that, we couldn't do something about it. As heart breaking as that is I want you to know it should be heartwarming to you to know that through your love and through your reaching out and joining hands with us that we can make that difference and we can turn precious little lives like that around if we had the nourishment to give them. And we're depending on you to join with us in doing that.

James: We will actually be stopping a death cycle that is undeniable. So there is the phone number; you see it there appearing on the screen. There is the e-mail, web site where you can go and you can communicate and make the gift. I pray that even as you look in on another very real scene -- and the thing about it is, I pray you'd never look away. You'd look to God and say, "God, how can I be the answer? And how can I offset what these mothers are facing, what these families are facing, these children are facing and what the missionaries watch every day? How can we be the miracle that changes everything?" -- Because you can be and I pray you will.

On the mission field

Announcer: This is an experience we pray you never encounter. A child fighting for his life; a young boy named Leo. The clinic staff has done everything within their ability to keep him alive. Now his mother, Ilda watches helplessly. She too has done all she can.

Open captions:

>> I cannot lose my boy. He is my youngest of two boys. I can't lose him.

Announcer: It's a case of malnutrition. We'd like to tell you it doesn't happen often -- that it's a rare occurrence but Leo's suffering and Ilda's heartbreak cries out from all over Africa where almost half of child deaths under five are caused by malnutrition. Like so many mothers here, Ilda holds the hand of her suffering child, willing him to live but fearing he's slipping away.

Leo was 3 years old. He died from complications of malnutrition.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Oh, boy! I'm not... I know I'm not over it yet. We lost our youngest, and the daughter we've talked about that when I watched the mother holding that little boy's hand and Betty, while you were across from Robin and Pastor Willie George and Robin's husband, we're watching as I held our daughter's hand. I held it up and I kissed it. How do you say good-bye?

There's no one person watching me right now -- not one that wouldn't have said, we would have changed that -- we would have saved her. But that didn't happen and it's no one's fault. We don't understand it. For a brief moment cancer won but she's alive forever. But here's the thing, Betty, our viewers can stop that death cycle. They can give those mothers their children.

Betty: I'm grateful that we can shed tears when we see the hurt of others. We can feel the pain that they're going through because I believe as Christians, what we're feeling is what God feels. He weeps when we weep. And I think we should be weeping tears when we see scenes like these, these precious children not getting a chance at life over something that shouldn't be and that's malnutrition. They shouldn't be like this but we have an opportunity to change it when we all come together and join hands together and hearts together to reach out to these children. Give them a chance. Thank you for caring. Thank you for giving. Thank you for loving these children.

James: Yeah, please, I'm sorry. By the way, you've carried us and our family, as we try to carry you. We really believed as we were looking to see how do we gain from this loss we've suffered? God show us how to bind up the brokenhearted. And weeping is

a part of the healing process so don't ever apologize if you've been brokenhearted and grieving over your loss. We care with you. We would weep with you. Jesus did. He kept at the graveside of Lazarus even knowing he was going to bring Lazarus back because the others were weeping. He cares about what we care about.

What I'm asking you to do is to be the miracle for the missionaries. I mean think about this. These missionaries, many of them, have left their homes and their comfort and they planted their lives in the midst of suffering with the hope of bringing healing and life and the love of God -- not just in word but in deed, in action. We're the ones that enable them to do it.

The missionaries say, "Your viewers are the greatest Christians in the world. They're the greatest people in the world because they let us do this great work God's called us to, saving lives and pointing people to the love of God this Christ, and winning them in Christ." We know we've saved the lives of more than 10 million little children; we, meaning you -- us together. But we've led far more than that to Christ because their hearts were open to receive the message from people who loved them.

Would you dial the number right now please? There are people calling today for prayer. They've got a broken heart and they want someone to pray with them just like we know you're praying for us. But I want you to call and be an answer to the prayer of the people who are praying for their children, that they may not lose them. We have 100,000 facing death. Think about this -- 400,000 total children we've located, desperately need our help and we're asking you to prayerfully consider giving \$100 to help us feed ten of those. Where could you better put \$100? Or give \$30 or \$50 to feed three children or five children for the next months.

We have some gifts to present to you for sharing the greatest gift, life. But we want to encourage you in your walk with God. I think you're going to appreciate what we send you but you never give to get -- you don't! We give because we love to give, the same reason you're going to give the food.

So make that life-giving call right now. Would you do it? Use your bankcard like a check. If you write a check, make it to LIFE. You can go online LifeToday.org and

make gift. If you write a check, call us and tell us what you're mailing because we really need to know. If there is any way you can make \$1,000 gift to help us touch those children facing death, immediately we really would appreciate it. Thanks for your gift. Thanks for your prayers!

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 even some Ebola-threatened areas of Sudan.

With all of our previous reserves gone, and Angola facing its worst drought and food shortage in 20 years, we need to immediately replenish our funding and supplies for our feeding programs. Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, \$100 or \$300 will help feed and care for 3, 5, 10 or 30 children for the next three months. With your support and the partnership of others, your gift goes a long way to help save lives. Please call us, write, or go online today and make your gift.

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you All Things New, a brand-new 31-day devotional featuring inspiration from a variety of special guests of *LIFE Today*; and an instrumental worship CD to bless you in your quiet times with the Lord.

With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed 10 children please request the N.I.V. larger print leather-bound reference Bible.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed 100 children, be sure to request our commemorative glass sculpture, "The Blessing."

Please call, write, or go online today and make your gift of life to help feed and care for hungry children.

End of clip

Begin video clip

Announcer: An unencumbered life allows you to enjoy the basics: a beautiful sunrise,

clean air, a loving family. Though hardly a time of plenty by western standards, the people in these villages would say they are content.

But after living on the edge of life's margins, a natural disaster like this drought in Southern Africa is all it took to tip the scales for these families who now find themselves in a struggle for survival because of the lack of food. Discolored hair, sunken eyes, sagging skin -- these are the symptoms of malnutrition and they become more prevalent in a time like this -- this survival mode. If it continues, many will die.

But even for the children who do survive, irreparable damage will occur if they don't get the nutrition they need at this crucial stage of development. The problem is serious but the solution is simple. A daily bowl of food over the next months not only ensures that these children won't go hungry but that they will receive the nutrition needed at this critical point in their lives.

With your help, *LIFE Outreach International* can continue the feeding programs that have saved millions. That's the miracle of love -- that's the miracle of mission feeding!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, it is a miracle! I tell you what, I would not as you can see, our hearts are still very, very tender. When you lose a loved one, and those of you who have lost family or a child, which is a heavy, heavy load and you realize that we've been spending so many years trying to save people's children, and you've enabled us to do it and we've been very effective.

Boy, when you think about how the outreaches of *LIFE*, our well drilling program has inspired churches and many other ministries to also begin drilling wells so for us to drill between 4,000-5,000 wells that's -- praise God. But the thousands of others who have been inspired to join, praise the Lord for that!

And then when you think about the feeding, to realize that we've saved millions of lives, but our outreach, Betty, when we moved to the schools after the kids got stabilized and we realized the only way to keep them coming to learn how they could

have a strong future would be to feed them at school. And the missionaries could see that. And then it inspired the whole World Food program with Tony Hall who was a democratic congressman in Ohio who loved God but who saw what we were doing with Peter Pretorius and the effect of it, and then shares that. And people are seeing it in all the third-world countries.

This is where when we come together and we pray and we do something effective, see we could show our national leaders how to do things effectively, how to address the needs. And you have to do it with love and wisdom and you have to come to the table of reason and compassion and begin to literally extend the hands of God. So that's what you're helping us do.

Now we don't have many days left in this mission feeding emphasis where we come to you for a period of time over a few weeks and ask you to help us feed children for many months. We need you today to make the gift God puts on your heart. And it's going to be a miracle answer to prayer -- it's going to save a life. Listen to me -- it's going to be the answer to the heart cry and the hope and the prayers of a desperate parent, a mother that they not lose their children.

You can say, "I've got the answer." And you do -- it's love! And we express that love by giving life. And in this instance, it is simply nourishing food. It works. We're not looking for some miracle cure to come out of some lab. We know what it is. They lack it, we give it.

Would you dial the number? Use your bankcard and make the largest gift you can. By making a gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 or whatever you can do to help feed as many children as possible.

We have gifts we're going to send you. We know you don't give to get them. We give them to bless you because you're our main mission outreach -- to bless you week after week and day after day. We love you! We want to be an encouragement to you -- that's why the 24-hour prayer line. We want to be here for you. But would you today become the hands of Jesus reaching out to touch a need and meet it?

Please go to the phone. Use your bankcard. If you write a check, make it to LIFE but tell us what you are putting in the mail or go online and make the gift God put on your heart. Thank you so much for doing it! Thank you for doing it now!

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 even some Ebola-threatened areas of Sudan.

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End of clip

In the studio

James: Beautiful children! And they're lining up because of love -- not just food, they're lining up because of love. I just thank God for his love and I thank God for the

love that you express that is the love of God for all these children. Betty is here right now and she's serving up the soup.

Betty: You know we've seen lots of lines over in the states, kids lined up for games, kids lined up for parks, kids lined up to go to a movie. These lines are different. These kids are lined up for food, for life. Won't you join with us? These are the kind of lines that really count. These children need our help. They need someone to make a good choice for them and that's for life. Please join with us and help us with the mission feeding. Thank you so much!

James: This is so beautiful! I really pray that if you can be "The Blessing" and give \$1,000, would you do it to help us feed 100 children? There are many of you that I know listen and you pray about something and then you say, "Okay. I'm going to do something."

But here is what I have found and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart, many of you realize, you know what? The need is great. Whatever you can do, and understanding his truth and his love lifts you above any circumstance. We want to send them to you to say thank you. Thank you for helping us. Betty and I together say thank you so much. We love you!