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Week 48: Fall Mission Feeding

Linda and Jennifer Barrick

James: Thank you so very much. I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. If you've been watching all week -- I'm James Robison by the way and Betty is not with me. I know if you notice, if you were watching earlier in the week, she has a real bad cough that she's really having trouble controlling. She just said, "I need to not be a distraction." I know you're praying for her.

I'm holding an incredible book, an incredible story, *Miracle for Jen*. Jennifer and Linda Barrick are here; this is mom and daughter, Jen. I've glanced through the pictures. We'll probably be putting some on the screen. This is one of the most horrific accidents I've ever seen; where a drunk driver just hit their vehicle and just could have killed everybody. And Jen, beautiful girl, teenager suffered a terrific blow, brain damage -- just horrific.

And through it all, the miracle for Jen is that she's a miracle; the spirit of the living God is on her. You'll know the minute I let the cameras turn to mom, to Linda, and to Jennifer, you'll see the glory of God is on them. That's what I want to do. I want to welcome this beautiful, beautiful couple, the mom and daughter, Linda and Jennifer Barrick.

Welcome to *Life Today*. Thank you.

Linda: Thank you.

James: Linda, Jen -- just love your smile, girl! Love that smile. I want you to just take us, Linda, if you will, kind of on this in so many ways horrible journey and yet miraculous journey. Then I want you to lead us, along with Jen, where I think you've been longing a long time for someone to go, with you, to lift you where you've wanted to be lifted because I think that's going to happen. What happened, Linda?

Linda: Well, Jennifer was 15 years old and she was your typical teenager. We're just an ordinary family who loved the Lord. Jen was a varsity cheerleader and a soccer player and straight A student, and she loved God with all her heart.

But she was a completely different personality than she is now, and she was much quieter and she had all these journals hidden all over her room. She was begging God for boldness. She couldn't really pray out loud and she was saying, "Lord, I want to make a difference in the world. I want to be able to pray out loud. I want boldness."

A couple months later after writing these journals she was singing in her very first choir concert with her high school choir and she was singing the song: Lord, you're holy. It's all the names of who God is, and she just loved that song. It was a great night.

My father is a preacher, Dr. Ed Hindson and he spoke that night on Revelation. And he ended the message by yelling, "We win! In the end, we win!" And hundreds came forward that night and... just a great night.

I love a party. So our whole family was there. We started to invite about 20 people over to our house after church. Less than a mile from our home we were hit by a drunk driver who was going 80 miles an hour. He was running from the police. He had hit another vehicle.

The police had actually stopped him for a while and taken him out of the vehicle, did not handcuff him, did not take his keys and said, "Stay here." They put him back in the vehicle and had him wait. That's when he sped off and came at us going 80 miles an hour.

James: Oh, everything wrong!

Linda: Everything! In the pictures you see where he hit us so hard that he dropped the engine out of his truck and he went over the top of our Sienna van. There is no explanation how any of us should have lived; we all should have died. Our whole family was in the van. My husband Andy was driving and Jennifer was sitting behind

him; and our son Josh was 11, Jennifer was 15. And in an instant life just changed forever for us.

In that moment, as I'm waking up and my face is just smashed up against this windshield, I couldn't figure out how I got there because I was just watching Jen sing in the choir concert. I just started praying out loud. My son Josh was awake. We just cried out to God for mercy. God was with us.

Jennifer was a Glasgow scale of three at the wreck and dead people are a three. The doctor said she will never live through the night. All four of us were medivacked to four different hospitals within hours of each other.

The power of prayer is why we're here today. God just, thousands, some in the crowd tonight, they prayed for us every day that God would spare our lives. We were begging God to save Jennifer. She was in a coma for five or six weeks and we were just begging God. The doctors wouldn't give hope. They said she'll probably never wake up. She'll probably never walk or talk. So we just were begging the Lord.

Jen, why don't you tell what it's like to wake up from a coma.

Jennifer: Well, yes, first off, to wake up from a coma, it's not at all how they show in movies; it took weeks. My physical body was so broken. I had to relearn how to do everything: How to walk, how to talk, how to read, how to write, how to get dressed, how to swallow, how to brush my teeth -- everything that you do on a daily basis.

But it was so neat because during this time how the Lord just made himself so real and alive to me. And even though my physical body was so broken, my spiritual body was still intact.

Linda: I wish you could have been there, James, in the hospital because here, I'm in a wheelchair, my whole left side is crushed and my husband Andy is in a wheelchair and we're watching our beautiful daughter. She's zipped up in this bed like a tent to keep her from falling out because as she is emerging she has no control of her arms

and her legs. The doctors warned us, she could be cussing or biting. She won't know who she is.

We said, "We don't care. We just want her to wake up."

And in that time when she is emerging from this coma, she never said a cuss word. She started praying and talking to God and it was unbelievable. She was just saying, "Lord, you are so good! You are so faithful. There aren't words to describe you."

And we could not talk to her at this time. It was like moans and groans. She didn't make sense. She didn't know who we were. She didn't know she was hurt. And yet, when she talked to God, it sounded like the uninjured Jen and she would just praise him for hours.

I would say, "Jen," she would be moaning in pain and I would say, "Jen, can I pray with you?"

She would say, "Well, he's right here. Just talk to him! He's right here."

The thing that would calm her, the only thing that would calm her from thrashing around was to quote scripture out loud, and the praise music, we would play praise music. She could sing every song on the WOW worship CD, word for word, and we would start quoting scripture and the power of the Holy Spirit was so alive in her she could quote out loud whole chapters of the Bible, every verse, she had ever hidden in her heart.

I'm just like -- we're watching this, her soul was not injured and yet her mind and her body was completely broken. The doctor would come in and say, "Jen, raise your right arm."

And she could not follow a verbal command. And she couldn't sit up. They'd say, "What flies? -- A bird or an elephant?"

And she would say, "An elephant."

Her mind and body was totally broken but spiritually she was praising God and talking to him for hours and quoting all this scripture and God was so alive in her.

There was one story that changed my life forever. Different friends would come and bathe me and dress me and drive me in the wheelchair an hour and a half to see Jen every day. And it was Christmas time and Jen's in the wheelchair and she has no control over her legs so she is kicking my friend Pam and Pam is on the ground and she's massaging Jen's feet. And we start singing Silent Night. And in the middle of Silent Night Jennifer just starts singing and she is glowing and she is looking up over here. And at the end she just goes, "Amen!"

And I looked at her and I said, "Jennifer, do you see Jesus?"

And she said, "Yes! Don't you see him? He is standing right beside me."

And Jennifer, with her brain injury, she was completely blind at this time. She could not look at me and know I was her mom. Somehow God made himself so real to her and he has filled her with joy and unexplainable peace and joy. Jen, tell James how you love to view Jesus.

Jennifer: Well, yes. I love to view Jesus as my escort because there is so many different scriptures that talk on how once you've invited the Lord into your life to be your savior, how God will never leave you or forsake you, and how he will be by your side every single step of the way. It just always helped me have the courage just to know that, of course, God will help me and of course, he will show me the way.

Linda: And Jen reminds me almost every day because I struggle, as her mom, I mourned all her losses. She would be screaming in the shower because it felt like needles hitting her body and her body was hyper sensitive but she had no short term memory. So five minutes later she would be dancing around the living room singing a praise song saying, "I'm so full of joy."

I'm crying and it was unbelievable to watch how she could just praise God and praise God. And scripture became so powerful to us. Jen had trouble just getting out of bed.

I'd say, "Jen, are you doubting God?"

And she would say, "No! I'd never doubt my Lord and my savior. He's the creator of the universe!"

We would say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

And Jen had huge anxiety and so we would quote: The Lord has not...

Jennifer: Given me a spirit of fear but of love, power, and a sound mind.

Linda: Just to walk into a room...

James: Can you see, Jen, can you what God is doing in you, how it is blessing your mom? Can you see the joy in your mother?

Linda: She pulls me out of the pit every day. Every day when we wake up it is a choice, are we going to be bitter or better? And are we going to run to God or away from God?

James: Have you not seen this just flow all through the church? Are you still there at church at Thomas Road?

Linda: We are. Jen joined the choir and we're in church and we're traveling all over the country speaking.

James: I'm sure. And she wouldn't say a good word about Liberty while she is traveling; would she?

Linda: Yes, she would. Yes! And God has given Jen a whole new personality. She is now outgoing. She shares Jesus everywhere she goes. And a new ministry called:

Hope Out Loud. And we have a web site: HopeOutLoud.com. We speak all over and we get to go into hospitals and schools and non-Christian settings, churches.

And Jen says she still struggles with her short term memory so she can't really prepare what to say. She speaks from her heart. God's just so alive in her. She will say, "I can't remember to not talk about God because I have a brain injury." So she just talks about God everywhere she goes.

[Laughter]

So many days...

James: I don't want that to be what it takes to get us all witnessing. How about we just start witnessing? I want us to do something. This girl loves to pray for others. Our audience -- now listen to me -- whatever your need, I want you to just start whispering it, it doesn't matter what it is. I want you to whisper to the Lord, "Lord, I need..."

I'm asking God to do something really special just like you're doing with Jen. Just go ahead and we're going to have Jen pray. People all over the world, Jen, they hurt, broken hearts, broken lives, broken homes. I just want you to pray for all the people right now that just need God to touch them. Would you just pray for everybody as God leads you to pray?

Jennifer: I'd love to. Let's pray.

Dear holy Lord, we come humbly and gracefully before you, Father God. We're just uplifting your name, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus -- the name above all names. At the sound of your name every knee will bow and every tongue confess that you, Jesus Christ is Lord. I want to uplift everyone watching or listening today, Father God, and I know their circumstances may be deep and they may seem like they don't have hope or any chance of security or trust.

Thank you, Lord that we can find all the hope we need and security in you, Father God. We just are seeking you today with all our hearts.

I love that scripture that says: You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. So that is our cry today, Lord Jesus.

Help us to know that we aren't ever alone, Father God because you, Jesus, son of David, you are our escort. You are with us every single step of the way.

Thank you, Father God for how you give us trials, I believe that Lord, to be our testimony to reach the world. Father, help us just to have just a new outlook on trials, Lord, for it just to be our testimony and for us to get excited that you want to use what we go through for your glory, ultimately, Lord Jesus.

Father God, I want to just pray for my dear friend this day. Help them to have the courage and the strength just to continue pressing on.

Father God, we put our eyes on you, Jesus, our deliverer. And we do, we thank you, Father God that with you all things are possible and that there is power in your name, and in your name alone.

We love you, almighty Jehovah Rapha. To you alone be the glory! It's in your name, Father God, amen!

James: Oh, boy, amen! Jen, I love you. Linda, I see the Lord in you and your husband and your friends, just the glory of God. Thank you.

Linda: Jen can't, when she prays she can't prepare ahead of time what she is going to say because she doesn't have the short term memory and if you ask her what she did yesterday, she doesn't know. She just lives in the now, in the present and God gives her the words.

And you know, if anybody listening is doubting is God real, God is so real. He helps Jen every day do things she cannot do and she says, God, thank you for bringing back my memory when you want me to have it. And God can help all of us. Our pain has a purpose.

There were many days when I was doubting does God love me? Has he been good to my family? And God does love us. He loves everyone so much if he allows us to go through something painful.

You know five months after the wreck we were seated together in this chair and a half and Jen was close enough to me to see the scar on my face. And she looked at me and said, "Oh! What's wrong with you?"

I said, "Jen, we've been in a wreck. We've been in a car wreck."

And I'll never forget what she said that day. She looked at me and said, "I wish I was hurt instead of you." And she was so hurt -- she didn't know she was hurt. Jennifer had scars all over her body that she didn't know she had.

As that year went on, she started, God healed her a little more and she started to realize she had scars and she didn't like them. My son, he thought his scars were cool because he was a boy but Jen didn't like hers too much and so we would talk about it. And what did we decide they were?

Jennifer: We decided that they are beauty marks of God's faithfulness.

James: You know what I hope you'll remember, Jen and Linda? You are beautiful. I want you to remember James loves you. James Robison loves you, and Betty, and all of our staff. But I want you to remember this, I see Jesus in you. I pray you'll remember that. –

And for all of you. I want you to get this book; this is *The Miracle for Jen*. It is actually a miracle for all of us. You can go online and get it. I'll tell you what we'll do. If you'd just be a miracle for somebody today we'll send it to you. We'll just send it to you as a gift.

We're sending a beautiful Bible to those of you who will help us feed some children, if you'll help us feed a child, just do something to help us save a life, we'll gladly send it

to you because this is a phenomenal story. You can get it in the bookstores or go online. Why don't you get it for a friend that says, "Um, boy, we've been through a lot." And let them see this miracle and experience a miracle to know they win too. I really hope you'll do that.

Would you say thanks to this beautiful mother and daughter?

[Applause]

I want you to do something here right now. I want to ask you to do something. I want you to take the gratitude that you have for the miracle and I want you to say, "Lord, I want to be a part of another miracle. I want to be a part of not only a life-changing miracle but a life-giving miracle that will be a miracle for everyone touched by that miracle." You'll see what I'm talking about.

You watch this and with all your heart, you're not only going to want to see a miracle, you're going to want to be part of a miracle. Watch it!

On the mission field

Tammy: As a widow, suffering isn't something I've escaped in life. Oh, there was a day I might have gone to some lengths to avoid it but I now know that part of my purpose is to do what I can to breathe hope into those who are suffering.

But here, walking through this clinic it is everywhere I turn in the horrific form of starvation. Part of me wants to run from this scene but the other to run for help. Hope deferred makes the heart sick.

This mother, Sakura, her heart is sick because she is losing hope for her little princess, Luisa, a precious 16-month-old girl so severely malnourished she weighs a mere seven pounds.

My life verse is Jeremiah 29:11, its breathed life into me countless times: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you; plans to give you a hope and a future."

I think sometimes -- sometimes we forget it applies to these precious children too. It's so critical for us to respond, to not hesitate, to not think that somebody else is going to take care of this need. You can be the difference today in the life of this family, in the life of hundreds of thousands of families.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I'm just going to tell you how it is. A picture speaks more than a thousand words but I really need you to hear what I'm trying to say in light of what you've seen. Only a miracle, I'm talking about a supernatural miracle is going to let those babies Tammy is talking about live and the ones she referenced in particular.

They're at a point, Betty they won't make it 24 hours -- and it is their little princesses. And the one talking to Tammy, she lost her husband; and she actually had a little tattoo.

I've often wondered about tattoos. I don't have one, won't have one, but she actually put the verse of scripture you heard her quote, to God has a hope and a future for a woman that lost her very young, very athletic swimmer husband, he drowned, of all things.

And yet Tammy is there, she's gone all over the world for Jesus and for *LIFE Outreach* because she knows that what we do works. She sees the hope that God has for mothers and children to never end up where those little babies are and we're still prayerfully and desperately trying to save them -- and miracles happen. Boy, they do!

Beth Moore saw it. Baby Matthew -- boy, did she ever see it! Went back and saw the baby couldn't live through the night and went back and played soccer with him because he lived.

So we're praying for the miracles. But here's the thing. We've got the feeding station set up where we can feed 400,000 children, thousands of them we've just found, that are headed on the way to clinics like that where they've got a matter of hours or days at most to live.

Now here's the deal. We've got to have a tremendous surge of support but let me tell you what God has done.

Betty, this is huge! This is the biggest gift we've ever had for any program.

We've been given a one and a half million dollar challenge. Think about what I'm saying to you. Just kind of zero in on what I just said -- one and a half million dollars -- that's the largest challenge.

You say, "Who did that?"

A group of friends -- not one or two -- a group who said, "We know the crisis situation is there. We have heard what the missionaries say and we want to challenge everyone to make the largest gift they can and it will be matched."

Which means if you gave \$30 or \$50 or \$100 to feed three, five, or ten children for the next months it would be doubled to 6 to 10 to 20. If you could give \$1,000 instead of feeding only 100, it would be 200.

Father, I pray everyone watching would reach out right now and say, "I'm going to be an answer to the heart cry and the prayer." And you direct them in their giving; in Jesus' name.

Give to bless knowing it will be doubled whatever you can do. Would you dial that number? Take your bankcard -- please do it right now; be an answer to that mother's heart cry, to the children's need, to the missionary's requests. Go online LifeToday.org and make the gift God puts on your heart. We have some beautiful gifts to send you

that will bless you and encourage you and inspire you. It's our way of just saying thank you for blessing others. We love to bless you. Thank you for making that call!

Begin video clip

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

As an answer to prayer, a group of *LIFE's* friends have set a \$1.5 million matching gift challenge for Mission Feeding. This means your gift today can have a double impact! \$30 to help feed three children will be doubled to impact six children. \$50 to help feed five children will be doubled to help save 10 children. \$100 for 10 children will be doubled to help feed 20 children. And \$300 for 30 children will be doubled to help feed and minister to 60 children!

With your gift of any amount we'll send you *All Things New*, a daily devotional with an inspirational music CD. With your double impact gift of \$100 or more, please request the N.I.V. larger print reference Bible.

Finally, please consider a double impact gift of \$1,000 and 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

In the studio

James: I really, with all my heart, hope that you will make a \$100 gift to feed 10 children knowing it will now be 20, and let us send you this beautiful, beautiful

leather-bound Bible, large print. We'll send the beautiful "Blessing" glass sculpture art piece to say thank you.

But we'll also, for any gift today, send *A Miracle for Jen*, and it will be a miracle. She's prayed for you. We just want to say thank you for helping us save lives, take care of these children. I just love you. Every one of you. Thank you for caring. Thank you for giving us a little of your time to point to him. Let's live to point to him like this beautiful mom and daughter.

Don't you appreciate Jen and Linda?

Love you, girl! Do you remember I said I love you? James loves you?

Jennifer: Yes!

James: You remember that? You remember it tomorrow! Thank all of you. Thank you so much for watching. Thank you for your help. Hey! Get a copy of this for your friends.