

2/20/15
Week 8
WFL special #2
James & Betty Robison

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison; Betty and I are thrilled to have this opportunity. I want to tell you something right up front. This program is not about you but it is very much about what you mean in the heart of God, and not only in the hand of God, if you'll just put the clay of your life in his hand, but when you allow him to shape Christ-likeness in you then you're going to find expressions of Christ manifesting in a very open and obvious way, and that is what you have the opportunity to see today.

Betty, when a viewer begins to watch a program like this, and it doesn't take too long into the program to realize it is not just sheer entertainment; it is not all about me. In the highest selling book, non-fiction perhaps of all time written by Rick Warren, *Purpose Driven Life*, one of the most profound and important statements in the book is "It's not about you."

In other words, if you really do want what's best for you, get the focus off of you and focus on the one who actually has your best interests, not only on his heart but who is divinely and supernaturally able to address those things that matter to you because you matter to God, more than you'll understand. You not only matter because he is interested in everything you're interested in or that concerns you or that hurts you or troubles you, he is not only interested in it, he knows how to work toward a meaningful, effective, lasting, even eternal decision.

So you're watching today in order for this great potter of yielded human clay to shape Christ and reveal Christ-likeness right now. Betty, I don't know if there is a greater way to reveal Christ-likeness than to release and express his love freely. Would you agree?

Betty: Absolutely, James! Like James said, when we forget about self, it is amazing how God will bring the results that we've been looking for in our lives that will glorify him and help others, when we reach out to others and forgetting about ourselves, what rewards God gives us in our own lives.

James: When we start releasing God's love and God's life toward others it is like the river of God's love and his life and his watch care and his provision and reliable oversight begins to flow more freely into this yielded vessel that has released however meager you may have or consider something to be, when you release it, it is like the widow's mite. Of all the giving Jesus said this was the greatest. She made not only history, she made biblical history. She didn't just get noticed by some people, she got noticed by almighty God through the greatest person who ever put his foot on this earth, Jesus!

And the little boy that gave the two fish and the loaves and saw the miracle that even after 20,000 had eaten, the 5,000 men and their families, wives and children, they had 12 baskets left over. All he did is yield what he had. I promise you, those disciples didn't come over and grab that kid's brown paper lunch bag. They didn't do that! Jesus said, "What do you have here? What do you have?" Obviously, they didn't have much. They had just gathered. But this little boy, this little lad, "Here's what I have." And what did he do with it? Think about this. What did this kid do with it? It really wasn't that he gave it to the disciples, he gave it to Jesus.

And when Jesus says, "If you give a cup of water in my name you won't lose your reward" -- and let him define the reward. You see you're watching this program for somebody else. You're going to get blessed if you really tune in to what God's saying to your heart. But how would you like to change somebody's life today? How would you like to save lives? -- Lots of lives? And give them the perfect cure for what ails them -- love, clean water. That's why you're watching.

And I promise you this, when you release this love and you say like that little boy, "Here's what I have," you watch what God does with it. See if you don't want to say right now, "Here's what I have."

James: Betty, it's said often that a picture speaks more than a thousand words. But what happens inside of you when you -- you know the conditions, and tragically you've watched too many little children die because of contaminated water, and you see those little children playing like that.

By the way, you need to know they don't get to play in the water like that every day -- that's drinking water. But when the missionaries come and then some of our mission team with cameras go to report on what's happening, they tell them, "You can do today what you want to do in that water." And boy, that's like play day.

But I've got news for you. If they hadn't been able to drink that water, they wouldn't have the energy to play but they were playing. Is that beautiful?

Betty: Oh, it is, James. Like you said, a picture says it all. There are no words that can speak better than what we just saw. You ask what comes to my mind. I think you can tell on my face. I'm smiling as hard as I can because there is joy within me knowing that we've been able to be a part of seeing those children play like children should be able to play and know that the water that they're putting into their bodies will not harm them.

James: I was listening to you just now and I don't really know why it came to me but it is just the words "well done, good and faithful servant." I really would like to hear those words. Sometimes I look at my life and I think that if he would tell me the truth,

and he only can speak the truth, he might say, "Well, you missed it a lot. I'm not sure you really even focused James." Hmmn! But to say "well done" and Betty talked about the smile on her face, I can't help but believe that when we give water to little children and their families it puts a smile on Jesus' face and he is saying it is good. Well done now! I think we can hear it now not just then.

I want you to listen to the need, the concern, the compassion of a boy who not only knows pain but he knows the love and compassion that a proper response to suffering and pain can produce. It's what needs to happen in us right now. Watch this closely and remember this. This program is about others. It is about his will through us for the benefit of others and the glory of God. And there is indescribable joy in that -- and fulfillment.

We're going to show you exactly how you can discover that and change everything for someone else -- actually, for many. Watch closely.

On the mission field

Open captions: My father left my mother when my sister was born. And my mother died two years ago. My mother got sick and she died because of the dirty water.

Announcer: Here in Madagascar life is hard under even the best of circumstances. But for some, it is brutal. For two years France has tried to care and provide for his sister the best he could. The same water that robbed them of a mother now threatens her life too -- and his.

Open captions: Almost all the people here are sick because of the dirty water but we still have to drink it.

Announcer: Despite the cruelty of all he has endured, this remarkable young man has grown a heart of compassion for the suffering. He saw his mother's pain and struggled after she was left to raise a family alone. He remembers her tears.

Open captions: I regret not giving all that I could to my mother because now that I take care of my little sister, I can imagine how terrible my mother's life was when my father left. She was all alone and had to take care of us. Once a month there is a big

container from the boat and I get \$2.50 for one day of work, and I can buy some stuff and share it with people around here -- especially the mothers who don't have a job or house. I feel good doing that for other mothers who care for their young ones.

Announcer: Think about it, in a place of extreme need, under circumstances that would leave most people crushed, bitter, and broken, France counts his blessings, thinks of others, and gives generously in the midst of his need, simple acts of generosity. Yours today could save a life like that of France or the little sister he cares for. You see clean water is life to them and a hope for a better future.

End of clip

In the studio

James: And it is the only hope for a better future. Now I'm asking you today to do what I believe God is impressing you to do as you look beyond your own life and needs. God is not looking beyond them he is looking directly at them. God wants to meet your needs. He is able to meet your needs. He does ask us to do our part in meeting the needs of others. I want to ask you to do that.

I want to ask you to dial the telephone number there on the screen right now that is there every day if you have a broken heart, a great need, a great burden. It is paid for by love. Somebody is paying for that call who watches *LIFE Today*. Because it is viewers that make this program possible every day with all of the people you meet and all the truth you hear and the love that you witness that inspires you and encourages you; that's all coming to you because of love.

And today, we're asking you to release love that gives life undeniably. You're going to save lives. We're going to drill with your help 500 water wells in many countries this year -- 500 of them! And everywhere we drill a well, think about this, let's just say 1,000 people come to that well, it changes everything for them forever. And if you look at the cost of a well it is \$4800. Could you give a well? But if you broke it down and you gave \$48 and let's just say 1,000 people came, well then you're giving 10 people water the rest of their life. If you gave \$144, as an example, and that's a target gift... by the way, we're sending Betty's devotional 40-day devotional guide out of her heart and

her journey and her story and her testimony that will bless you and inspire you every day, and her life story Free to be Me to bless you for any gift you make.

If you make a gift of over \$100 we're going to send you the beautiful coffee mugs. A gift of \$1200 or a well, \$1200 or more, we're sending you the beautiful Thomas Kinkade "Forest Chapel" canvas framed beautifully; it is hanging here in our studio. It is absolutely breathtaking. There's the water flowing. And out of The Temple of God, the chapel of God, people should flow the river of God's love and his life. That's what we're asking you to do. And in this instance it's with pure water, clean water.

Help us drill those 500 wells, one well at a time. If you can drill a well, please do. If you can give \$1200 or \$2400, pray three people or another person joins you, we've got a well. But remember \$48, \$144, ten people, 30 people water the rest of their life.

Would you go and get your bankcard right now please? Would you be an answer to the heart cry and the need of those precious children and those people and give the children the joy that you saw in that first clip from overseas where they're so happy because they're healthy? They have clean water! It's an oasis of life.

Please get your bankcard. Dial the number, make the largest gift you can giving the greatest gift of all life itself. Or you can go to LifeToday.org online and make your gift there. Remember this, if you write a check make it to *LIFE* because that's exactly what you're giving but please call us and tell us you're mailing it in.

Father, I pray every person who can help will help. I pray you direct their giving; you multiply it in its effect. And I pray you meet every need and every challenge they face just as they're helping meet challenges for precious children and their families; in Jesus' name.

Thank you for making that life-giving call. If you should get a busy, be determined, "I'm giving water in Jesus' name. I will get through."

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 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 you'll receive the brand-new *Free to Be Me* 40-day devotional where Betty shares the challenges, victories, and insights God gave her while struggling through fear and insecurity. You'll also receive Betty's book, *Free to Be Me*. With your gift of \$100 or more you may request *LIFE's* inspirational coffee mug set featuring encouraging quotes and scripture to brighten your mornings for years to come!

Finally, please 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 request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

On the mission field

Tammy: Where do you even begin to tell their story? Her sister was killed tragically by drinking contaminated water in this village.

Open captions: My sister died. She got pains in her stomach from the water then she died. This is the only water that we have.

Tammy: I know she fights every single day but the fear for her own life, for the life of her children, the life of her family and probably her friends in this same village. The

thing is I looked at that water source and it is the worst water I could ever imagine drinking let alone give to my children.

Open captions: I am afraid of this water because it has a lot of parasites. I feel sad because I have to give this water to my children. Their aunt died from it and they could die too.

Tammy: There's a huge need here. When I sit here and I listen to a story like that I think what can I do to help her? -- Because I feel so connected to her, of course. My heart feels connected.

Sometimes it seems so overwhelming and I know that it takes more than just me to make a difference and that's why I'm here to ask you to help me, to partner with me in making a difference into this little girl's life, and to her life, and to every other person that I've seen here today.

We know how to do it. We have the vision. We have all the passion in the world to change this community and to bring them water -- life-giving water! Let's do something today. Let's change the circumstances. Won't you join me today in making a difference?

End of clip

In the studio

Betty: As I look at that beautiful mother and that precious little daughter of hers, my heart just aches because I feel like that mother thinks, I'm contributing to the possible death of my own child! How can that be?

But that mother has only one source of water to go to. I pray you'll join with us and let's give that mother an option, a place to go where she can get clean water and know that that water is not going to harm her child that she loves so dearly. Please join with us and let's do this for the children.

James: Betty, I'm sorry but there was no way I could listen to you talking and not remember when Betty would come home from taking care of our daughter Robin. Several weeks back we celebrated her 42nd birthday while she was in heaven. But Betty would come home and she would say, "James, I looked at the wound on Robin's side where the cancer had taken hold and I wanted so bad to fix it." And Robin would keep saying, "If I can just gain enough weight maybe they can fix this and remove it." But she never could gain and Betty would say, "Oh, I want to help!"

Betty, our daughter was a beautiful mother, beautiful child and you're such a beautiful mother. I sometimes say, "Lord, why would we lose someone so precious?" And then I find myself thinking, is there any way that us understanding better how mothers all over the world feel can make us all more compassionate and more expressive and more anxious -- truly anxious to help? Would you?

I don't think there is a person watching that wouldn't have run to our side and said, "We've got the cure! We've got the cure!" And we could have all rejoiced. But look, we've got the cure. His Word, his love, his life to my body, soul, and spirit right here on these beautiful coffee mugs.

Would you please dial that number? Take your bankcard and say, "I'm going to be an answer to that mother's prayer, the need of that beautiful child and many more. I'm going to drill a well, a portion of a well, or I'm at least going to give 48 people a chance at life." Thank you so much for doing that.

By the way, thank you for your prayers for us and our family, for the comfort that only God can give. Thank you for your love. You are so beautiful and we are so grateful. And so will all of those who get fresh clean water because of you.

Begin video clip

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End of clip

In the studio

James: I really hope you will ask for Betty's Free to be Me story. And then we mentioned Robin a while ago. This is a painting that her niece did, one of our grandchildren, our son's oldest daughter, Abbey. She painted this of Robin dancing. She loved to dance! Robin loved to dance. She saw her dancing through the flowers in heaven in the presence of the Lord. I promise you, she is in that great cloud of witnesses. And when we give water in Jesus' name, I believe she will do another dance.

I pray that you give us a chance to bless you with Betty's story, Free to be Me and the devotional book, coffee mugs, and hopefully, "The Forest Chapel" painting, a beautiful canvas by Thomas Kinkade.

We love you! Thanks for sharing God's love.