

4/30/15
Week 18: Spring Mission Feeding
Brian Ivie

James: Well, Betty, I'm excited today. I'm always excited. I live excited. I live amazed in the presence of amazing grace and love and power -- transforming power. I'm James Robison; my wife Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

I'm holding a book called, *The Drop Box*. Here's a young man shooting a documentary of one of the greatest love stories, I think, that's ever been told and it's a true story -- not only relevant, it's happening right now. And the story that was shot by this little filmmaker, the documentary he did, it changed his life. He didn't expect that.

He's a southern California student; he is not thinking about this. He is thinking about movies. But it got his attention.

Let me just say this to you. If we can let the world, and really, I'd like to see even just the church, those who profess that there is a God who is a Father and that he gave a Son to redeem us, if you just even say you believe it. If you believe you were created by divine design you need to see this because you're going to see the Father. I'm going to let you glimpse it right now. Let's just watch a portion of *The Drop Box*. Watch closely.

Begin video clip

>> And then I was weeping. I always cry when I'm angry. She said, "Why are you crying? It's only orphan."

News Reporter: The Baby Box is South Korea's first and only box to collect abandoned infants.

News Reporter: Hundreds of unwanted babies are abandoned on the streets of Seoul, South Korea every year.

>> Tragic loss of life. Pastor said, to set up a way for saving unwanted babies.

>> We saw so many babies abandoned on the streets. That's why we made the baby box.

I didn't expect any babies would come in.

One of the mothers told me she had poison to kill both herself and her baby. So I told her, "Don't do that. Come here with your baby."

This is a story about faith.

This is the letter of Gi-ri's mom: I'm asking you to take my son. Please don't try to find me. And I am sorry. I am so sorry.

This is a story about hope.

Who's this? This is Gi-ri. Lee Gi-ri. His English name is Victory!

This is a story about love.

They're not the unnecessary ones in the world. God sent them here for a purpose.

We have 20 children in this small place.

But the difference of Juarang Orphanage is... the existence of mom and dad.

While others may ignore this issue, he does the work that society is neglecting.

>> Even if there is just one person that really cares about children it makes such a difference.

>> They're just human beings just like anyone else. They have the right to live.

>> It's not only Korea that has these issues. Globally, there are babies that die due to abandonment.

>> But these children -- they're helpless, they're voiceless. Who is going to speak for them?

>> As I sent her away, I made commitment again. God, I will die for these children.

The Drop Box.

Among faith, hope, and love, the best is... love.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I watched that with some of my staff just yesterday. I went home and told you, Betty. I was weeping because as I saw through Pastor Lee, just looking at his face, I see Jesus. He was looking at these little children -- and I got to be honest, I reflected back because I was a little baby like that that didn't have a home. I mean wasn't put in a Drop Box, I was put in a little ad in a newspaper, "Somebody come get a baby." Somebody came. I'm glad they came.

As I was looking at all those kids I'm thinking that God is looking at all the children in the world. He is looking at everybody in this audience. He is looking at everybody on the planet; like the most indescribable father you can see in Pastor Lee, you can just see the face of Jesus. You can see the love of the Father. He's saying, "Look at these little children."

Many of them are severely handicapped, but not to him. And the Father God is looking down and all he is looking for is a body that he can express himself through like he did Pastor Lee. He really is -- to the whole world, Betty. And you live with me, you know what's going on in my heart and it's in your heart, we want to put God's arms around the whole world.

Betty: We do! And God has a purpose for all of us. He put us here for a purpose. You just look at those little babies and God has a purpose for those babies. And just as the pastor said, they have a right to live -- they have a right to life.

James: I want you to welcome, give a great welcome to Brian Ivie. He is the one that did *The Drop Box*.

Brian, I'm glad to see you. I want you to know, you're one of my favorite people. I'm telling you, already, and I've just met you. But here's the deal.

Get a close up of Brian; go in there on him.

I told him that the countenance of Pastor Lee is already on him. He's a California boy, but he's got that "glory" I call it. It is the countenance of God's grace working in his heart. I want you to tell us about what this did for you.

By the way, I want to say to all of you, stream.org. It's where you ought to go every day for news but for insight and wisdom and direction because we're going to correct this nation's perilous course; we're going to see the church wake up. *The Drop Box* trailer will be on there right now plus other stuff about how you can know more and do more with it.

You can right now begin and I'm going to ask Brian to tell us right where to go, but you can get the entire film for your churches now. And we ought to show it in every church and we ought to invite the whole community and we ought to show it more than once because once the first group sees it then they'll want to go get everybody else and bring them to see it. It might just be that you just keep it running -- that you just kind of open your church for several nights and we're going to show people the love of the father. How would they get -- just tell us how we would get the video so we can use it in the churches. What web site?

Brian: The best web site to use is TheDropBoxFilm.com. One stop shop to find out everything you want to find out about how to get the film to your community, to your neighbors, to your friends and family.

James: And then ultimately, it will go DVD, and then you can have it in your home for your family but also for your neighbors. I think you can have them just take it to their house and then go house to house with it because this is the love of the father revealed through a servant.

Now you go over here as kind of a filmmaker. What was your interest? Because I don't think you were going over like really looking for God the Father. You saw an interesting story and you wanted to do some kind of film or movie; right?

Brian: You caught me. It's funny. I've done a few interviews recently with the film and people are on Twitter saying, "So you're telling me that your motivation for this film was that you wanted to go to Sundance and use these people to tell the story that was going to be significant enough for you to make a career?"

I'd say, "Yes. Now you all 'fess up about all your selfish motivations for things." I definitely saw a golden ticket in this movie.

James: So you went for selfish reasons really and you thought you saw a good ticket because it looked like an interesting story that you could do a film or documentary on.

Brian: Yeah, I thought I could put their lives on my hard drives and come home. Then I could be at Sundance Film Festival like I'd always dreamed about since I was a little kid. I set out to win Sundance and got saved instead.

[Laughter]

Betty: God had a different plan!

James: Tell me why, because you talk about "saved" like it's not some religious term. It's like, "Hey, man, I got rescued from the deep! I was dead and I'm alive." It sounds like joy to me. What happened? What caused this encounter? -- This transformation?

Brian: Well, I didn't think I needed to be saved, to be honest with you. I thought I was a Christian because I didn't smoke cigarettes and I watched FOX News with my mom.

[Laughter]

James: I'm not sure that's the best ticket.

[Laughter]

I do appreciate the more balanced -- thank you, FOX. You've got at least one little demerit that's in your favor.

Brian: I think that's what people think in this country. My book is a song for the suburbs. This is for all the people that think they don't need to be saved because they didn't run a Mexican cartel or almost overdose on heroin or murder somebody.

But a little kid came up to me, eight years old, at a screening and said, "What was your greatest mistake in life?"

I said, "How old are you? Why are you asking me that for?"

He said, "I just want to know."

I turned to him, without stuttering I said, "My greatest mistake in life was thinking I was too good to need God's forgiveness."

And then he ran away.

I said, "Don't forget!"

[Laughter]

"You'll need that!"

James: Did this pastor and what he was doing, is that what opened your eyes to see something far greater than you envisioned?

Brian: Pastor Lee was the proof to me. I thought Christianity was kind of a joke, to be honest with you. I thought Evangelicals were an even bigger joke; very ignorant, hateful people, trying to think they are better than everybody else.

But what I found out is that Christians aren't the perfect people; they're the people who think and know in their souls they're not even good but that they're still wanted and loved; right?

James: Yes!

Brian: So for me, seeing Pastor Lee was seeing living proof of a loving God. What I love is coming on shows like this and getting to be proof of him. It was two things. The first thing was hearing a sermon about the cross. Listening to a sermon on the computer, the same computer I'd been addicted to pornography on for six years; I should say "enslaved" because that's really what it was. Really abusive relationships I was in; I had huge anger issues. I would scream at girls I was in relationship with; throw things, kick chairs. I'm serious!

Behind closed doors, God sees our hearts. This is the thing. People don't want to say this stuff but I have to say it's not fun for me. But I have to say it because I want people to understand that you need to be forgiven but forgiveness is the road home. So it was the cross, as a stake in the ground in my life saying, you need to be forgiven, son. But the Father's adopting love saying, "I want you even in the pit, even in your darkest places to bring you home" just like this man reached into a box and pulled a helpless child out, in terms of living forever, I was helpless too, pulled out through the laundry room, into the light. And that's my story.

James: And that is the story. Do you get how clear that was? That he actually saw -- what you saw was a demonstration of the gospel that was more powerful than a declaration of it. You saw a living illustration of the power of the gospel, not just the proclamation. All of it is important because he heard that too but if we don't demonstrate it -- you referenced something.

Let me just say this to you. We're giving this book away. By the way, we will send you this book on *The Drop Box* and his story; this is his story too. Not only what Pastor Lee did and this miracle, *The Drop Box*, but what happened to Brian. This is about the body, written by one of the greatest, most gifted doctors and one of the most gifted writers, Dr. Paul brand, who is now

with the Lord, who spent his life helping lepers, although he is one of the most gifted doctors that ever lived, and Philip Yancey, one of the greatest writers.

He said, this is what Phillip said to Dr. Brand, "Let me share with the church, the body of Christ." Thirty times, the Bible says we're the body of Christ -- not like it, we are the body.

He said, "Dr. Brand, let me show the people through your words the body and show them what the body is supposed to look like. You just said something that is so true, and I saw it here. You can't have a healthy body without a healthy skeletal frame. And the skeletal frame is not rigid, it actually takes shock and it has to meet joint to joint with holy lubricant. That's Holy Spirit lubricant; friction is minimized by the power of God's spirit so that we come together.

But here's what the church has done and this is what turns you off. We want to be sure we've got all the doctrines and all the structure in place that we put the skeleton on the outside rather than being the feely, touchy, sensitive, caring skin, we put the rigid skeleton on the outside and the church is scary, it's repulsive. It seems to have no sensitivity, no feeling, no care.

This will help us see that God made this body precisely and his body must function with the rigid principles of truth but they've got to be covered by the compassion and love. This wonderful pastor showed you that in absolute clarity; did he not?

Brian: That's right. Because it wasn't just here's your get-out-of-hell-free card, although I will say that I was saved from hell and from my sin. But it was the love that said, "Now you're coming home with me."

And otherwise, if I didn't have the Father's love that sent the Son to bring us home, I would have hated myself because I would have felt tolerated instead wanted. And so many people in the church feel like God's just tolerating them and they sin again, "Oh, there you go!" And the Father is waiting on the porch.

But that's not the Father at all! He gave everything, held nothing back. And that's what I experienced in Pastor Lee and that's what I want to tell every person, in the church, unchurched, cool in their faith, hot in their faith, whatever, the Father wants you -- it's a love that wants.

Betty: How long did it take you being around this pastor before you knew something was really different about his faith and his love for God?

Brian: Great question! Very little time. I would say five minutes. I walked into this man's house. He looked at me like I'd been out at sea for three years. Never met him before -- pulls me in, holds my hand. It wasn't weird -- it wasn't weird to me. Prays for me; he knew my faith

was obscure -- that's his words; right? But I understood what the Bible was talking about when it talked about father. And he couldn't say any words to me except for "hello" and "I love you."

James: That's all his English?

Brian: And "coffee."

[Laughter]

But he would talk about his past, how he was an alcoholic. How he was in a gutter of rage and alcoholism; and how he had actually aborted a child with a disability. Imagine that. And how God saved him to save -- and the same with me.

James: All right. Would you say thank God for what you just heard? And thank you, Brian.

[Applause]

I don't think it's too late for us to correct direction. Don't buy into the thought, well, it's just going to get worse and worse. What if Paul had said that right there before he began to minister to those of Caesar's household? -- And just depending however much time it took to tell people about the power of almighty God. We don't know. He set a time.

But what he's told us is the power of his transforming truth can move any mountain. If the gates of hell, if death and destruction shall not prevail against the church why do we allow it to appear that it is? I think it's because we've stayed covered.

You know what you've actually done? You've taken a man that wasn't covered and you've revealed the light of that reality to the world. And when you see the light and glory of God on a life, and realize that that same glory is not only for Brian and all of the people where he is or where he was, but it's for everybody on the planet. It isn't just for the children that Pastor Lee rescues in the Drop Box -- it's for every one of us. And we're all here by divine design on a divine mission for the glory of the Father to reveal the Father's love, what he saw in this man in a moment. You can see it.

I've been -- Betty and I have been married for 52 years. I've been ministering over 53 years and I've watched the glory of God all over the world. I have lived for more than 50 years amazed at what God does. I never cease to be amazed. I don't live a dull life. I'm not just an old man waiting to die. I'm full of life and glory. A child without a father, without a home -- God had a purpose. He has it for you. I want to send you *The Drop Box*. I want you to go to... say the web site again.

Brian: The DropBoxfilm.com.

James: And you're going to get the video for your churches. And I hope you'll just put a series of outreach times on it. There may only be a few come a few nights but it can change their life and it can be like what happened to Brian. So utilize it and just thank God. Brian, one of the things that we find and our viewers, when I say we, that's all of us, we love doing what Pastor Lee does in a different way.

We have been feeding children that are dying. We've been giving clean water to families and people that have never had it. It changes everything and we give them Water for Life and we tell them about the water of life. We give them food to eat and we tell them about the bread of life.

Do you know what we found? That if you'll show people the gospel and show them love they will listen to the story of love just like with Pastor Lee.

I want you right now, please, I want you to look with sensitive eyes. Ask God to let you see the way he sees and respond the way he wants to respond and you are his hands. Watch.

On the mission field

>> Once the fighting broke out in my village, we ran from our house without carrying any food. Sometimes we spent two days without eating ...and sometimes we have three or five days without eating. Sometimes we are able to eat water lilies from the river. My child died on the way here because we had nothing to eat. If the water lilies dry up, we will be planning for death.

Announcer: ...Planning for death. After months of escaping to safety on foot across the harsh terrain, imagine if your only option for living was to plan for dying? To face such adversity only to succumb to a lack of food is a loss that is difficult to accept.

But while we cannot change the past, God has given us the power to affect the future for so many children like these. With your help, mission feeding can be a miracle of life for this mother, and these children who are desperate to survive.

For I was hungry but you gave me something so eat. Matthew 25:35.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I don't want any mother to have to continue that. They were eating lilies and plants. We actually have seen many times a child not only pick up the soup that might have burned through a plastic bag that they brought to get the porridge. And when it hit the ground they would scoop it up and eat the porridge and the dirt. But we've actually seen children who were so hungry they were eating dirt -- to put something in their little stomachs.

Now, we can go on and on about how awful it is but let me tell you something. We have saved - we know for a fact -- we have saved over 10 million children's lives; that's by count of the people overseeing in the different nations that know what happened. That when I say "we," that's us together.

So here's what I need you to see. Where you were looking, there's 25,000 people right there in southern Sudan right now where all hell has kind of broken out for about the third time in the last several years. We can save those 25,000. We've located them but we need to give the missionaries and the relief workers the food. And then we've got 400,000 organized in areas of tremendous need, and we want you to help us feed them.

So what I'm asking you to do, please, right now, is to go to LifeToday.org, go online, or go and dial the number there and take your bankcard and use it like a check. Here's what you need to understand. This may be hard to find them but it is simply the truth and it really does work. For \$30, \$50, \$100 we can feed for the next several months three, five, or ten children. I will always ask you to reach for the highest level. If you can help us save the lives of ten children do it. Make that \$100 gift -- please do it! But whatever you give, think what it means to those three children, if it's \$30.

Whatever it is, make the best gift that you can make. Would you do that? Go right now online, dial the number, or go LifeToday.org and make the gift. We have gifts to send you to bless you. This book will transform your thinking. It can change the church.

And then, *Heirs of the Kingdom*; what an incredible teaching series. Please, right now, give us a chance to bless you by saving the lives of these precious children. Would you do it?

Thank you for making that call, for making that gift.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Disease, malnutrition, starvation -- all terrible human atrocities being faced every day by people living in remote and impoverished areas of Africa. Those at greatest risk are the children.

This month, 400,000 children are depending on us for survival. And now in South Sudan the suffering has intensified and our feeding efforts are desperately needed by an additional 25,000 children. Our mission teams are in place but your support is critically needed to replenish and distribute food supplies immediately. When you call or go online today and make a life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100, you will provide urgently needed food to three, five, or ten children for the next three months.

As our way of saying thank you, we'll send you *Heirs to the Kingdom*, four powerful messages on audio CD or U.S.B. flash drive. You'll also receive the award-winning book, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*. With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children please request *The Story*, a running narrative Bible to help you engage with God's Word more easily.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed 100 children you may request this beautifully framed canvas print of the "Forest Chapel" by the Painter of Light TM, Thomas Kinkadee.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Thank you for your help. If you get a busy, many times people are calling for prayer and that's good, but if you're calling to help, be determined, I'm going to help. Let us send you *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*. It will show you the miracle of your body and the miracle of what the body of Christ can be like.

If you'd like to have it, we'll gladly send you the incredible story of *The Drop Box* -- and it is Brian's story, it's Jesus' story and his life. All of the things that we offer you are to bless you and to help you.

I'm telling you, Brian, you have got a really supernatural touch of God on your life. I want to live... let me just say this to you. Here at *LIFE*, as long as Betty and I are alive, we will support you. We'll do everything we can to help you do what God put on your heart. Just know that; not only in prayer, but if there are ways we can help you, we'll do it.

The Drop Box, there's the web site, go get that DVD. I pray every one of you watching will say, "At my church we're going to show it. I'll get the copy myself. I will take it. I will get it done and we're going to show it."

Say thanks to God and thanks to Brian.

Thank you, Pastor Lee! God bless you! And all those little children that God loves so much.
Thank God! Thank you, buddy!

Announcer: Be sure to visit stream.org, a rich and lively source for breaking news, analysis, and entertainment! Stream.org