

11/06/15
Week 45: Fall Mission Feeding
Mission Special #1

James: What a privilege it is for Betty and for me to spend this time with you. I'm James Robison; and my wife Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

Betty and I are getting older. We've been married for more than 50 years. Thank God for that! That's almost like a miracle that people are married that long. Now it's a miracle if people make it five years and that's really sad. But we've just have had an incredible journey together. But as we've gotten older, we've said good-bye to a lot of friends, lifetime friends.

Then there is something else we noticed. We've had several pets, and we have a little dachshund named Princess. Let me ask you something. How many of you have ever been captivated by what pets do? Do you know among the most if not the most popular YouTube videos that get the 10 million-20 million views are puppies and pets, and how they play together, look happy.

We're going to actually try to show our viewers sometime our incredible photographer/missionary, Janice Meyer, she and her friend have a brown lab and a golden retriever and they are the best buddies, and they play together. We saw them playing the other day and I said, "That's the way I want Christians to act." I want Democrats and Republicans to act like that -- I want them to be happy.

Any time you see a pet, our little pet Princess, she's going to be 15 years old at her next birthday. And I wrote a book because she inspired me; it is in the bookstores, it is available. We'll send you anything -- you help us love people and you just ask for something we're going to say a big thank you. But our little puppy is -- she spends a lot of time sleeping, and we don't know what's going on with her -- and we care. There's not a person watching me that hasn't seen a pet in distress and wish you could help them.

That's pretty normal; isn't it, Betty? How do you feel when you think about Princess' changes, as a puppy? Just stay with me because this is important.

Betty: Well, she is part of our family. She wasn't feeling too well a few weeks ago and I was holding her. You were kneeling in front of me. We were talking about her and she was just listless. I started crying; I wept and I wept. James, you said, "Are you okay?" I thought, no, this

is -- she is ours. It's like -- of course, we don't compare it to our children or whatever, we love them so much. But she is so much of a part of our family. And now, especially that we've been empty nesters for a long time, she is dear to our heart.

James: And it is natural -- there's not anything unnatural. That's actually quite godlike because he is the God of all creation. And for us to love, not worship animals, and understand they are animals God has given us and we can consume them, we can eat them, God made that very clear. He also gave us some cautions and some warnings.

But here's the thing. The fact that our heart is touched when we see something even that simple, it ought to really impress upon us how deeply -- now listen to me -- how truly deeply we should be moved when we see a person in distress. As a matter of fact, when you take the two commandments, which Jesus said you can just take all the commandments and you can reduce them to the great commandments: Thou shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, with everything that is within you.

I'm going to tell you this. Until we really love the living God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we're not really living, we are at best having a high level existence or low level existence but we're not really enjoying life. Then if you love God and then love your neighbor as yourself, you love others -- really love them. In other words, you want for others what you would want for yourself. If you were in distress, you needed help, if you were thirsty, if you were hungry you would want someone to touch that need if you were hurting. And if we love our neighbors, we should be moved -- I mean deeply moved. I want you to know that when Betty and I saw the suffering people in the third-world countries, and many of the nations on the continent of Africa, we knew that only love could heal their pain.

Here's the thing we discovered. When we began to reach out in love, and we brought that opportunity to the viewers of *LIFE Today*, and I honestly told the missionaries, what I have seen, I would plant my life here to save these people. And they said, "Don't stay here. Go home and tell so we can stay here."

I said, "I don't know if people in the United States and Canada and the advanced countries, I don't know if they'll notice. When you have a mission conference at a church, it's kind of like a prayer meeting, not many go. I don't know if anyone will help but I'm going to go back and I'm going to tell people what we saw and what we felt."

And let me tell you something, I live amazed in the presence of the Lord Jesus since the time he called me, not only to preach but to be a witness for as long as I live -- and that's what he's called all of us to do, that's why he left us here. When I came to you -- you the viewers of *LIFE Today*, here in the United States, Canada, and around the world -- you reached out with arms of

love and compassion that have been as great an inspiration to pastors and leaders and Christians and certainly to us, and certainly to the missionaries, and you extended the hands of God's love. And from the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you. I'm glad that you are sensitive to suffering. I'm glad that you love your neighbor.

You know what people like you have told me? "James, it's the greatest joy I've ever had to give somebody else life and joy and relief."

Now I want you to walk with Peter Pretorius, our daughter's oldest son Chris is with Peter, Jeanne Rogers is with them, I want you to just listen as he just kind of does a walk-through and shares reality and an opportunity that we must take advantage of. Watch.

On the mission field

Peter: People come in from rural areas, they bring their kids here when their kids are really severely malnourished. Unfortunately, they often bring them very late. But there is help here and we do save a lot of lives.

Unfortunately, we lose some too because they do bring them in late, and then the other thing is the mothers come here and the mothers don't have any food. So these clinics are vitally important in saving kids' lives. We have saved literally thousands of lives working in these malnutrition clinics.

I'm going to show you a little boy here, the momma too, has got a very bad disease that comes directly from malnutrition. His little stomach, his arms are swollen, and yet look how thin his little neck is and look at his ribs sticking out. That's a condition called kwashiorkor. That's why he's here. But to be honest, he needs prayer because to me, a child like this has maybe 10% chance of making it. That's the actual -- that's the tragedy. If we could have had him earlier or better than that, if we could have fed him in his village, we could have saved him from coming here.

You know what the big thing is? You can make the difference for others that don't have to come here. You can make the difference so we can reach them in their village before they ever get here. That's what we really would like to achieve. That's what mission feeding does. It reaches children before they get to this advanced stage.

So please, today, don't leave it! Today -- it's vital today -- not tomorrow, today! Please do something. Do something right now.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I am grateful to say that viewers of *LIFE Today* heard that missionary heart cry. He's sharing with our grandson, Chris Turner who graduated from Baylor and went straight to the mission field. I thought it was beautiful to see him sitting there listening to Peter talk about how important it is before they get to that stage of death in those malnutrition clinics where that's their last hope, meet them out where they live in that incredible area of need and begin to help them.

Betty: James, when our missionaries or any of us go into the field like that, it's very hard to watch and to hear. You heard the babies crying. They're crying out for help.

Here, if I ever heard my baby crying I immediately ran to them to see what I could do to stop the crying. If they were hungry, if they needed something else, I administered that help.

These mothers, they have nothing to offer their children. Their babies are hungry. They try to comfort them but there is nothing to comfort them with for their pain.

But we can. We can comfort them. We can reach out and get the food to them before they get to this state of pain and possibly death.

James: From the time you and I went there and we saw the need, we made the statement that we would be willing to do nothing but help rescue these who are perishing, if that was all we ever did. I know God's called me to preach and teach. And one of the main things God's called me to do as a Christian and perhaps maybe a Christian leader, some would refer to me as being one, I want to bring the body of Christ together and the leadership together so that we so fit together in submission to the head, Christ, that we actually look like his body.

You know how, Betty, we like to point to others that Jesus is doing so many wonderful things so that people see Jesus everywhere he's expressing himself. And we don't put some Christian spokesman or preacher or teacher or leader up on a pedestal as though they're the only one that we listen to; we can hear Christ speaking in all the different areas. He speaks through that missionary so clearly and it impacted us.

When we came back and began to share with our viewers they felt what you just described. They felt like there's a tremendous need! There's a mother that's hurting. There's somebody that's hungry. You said, "Look! We can do something about it." You were talking about how you want to do it for your children.

We've got to understand that God looks at everybody as children; that are either his children or he wants to adopt them and be the father. So what God has always been looking for is a family that would love the Father, that would love others in the family and would love those outside the family so that we could actually, on this earth, become a blessed family, even a blessed nation, through whom he would bless the nations and people of the world. That is what we, as Christians, are here for.

Betty, we have an opportunity to literally begin feeding in those village areas or in refugee areas where we set up a feeding center; and the people come from maybe 100-150 kilometers around and come there because there is food, there is love. Here's what we need. I mean it really is a request for a miracle. We have 400,000 children located right now, not in those malnutrition clinics, that's the last resort and you pay for those -- your love does that.

But we want to feed the 400,000 and give them the nourishing porridge and soup mix, nutrition- and vitamin-enriched and stabilize the situation for them, make them healthy again, give them a future right where they are. That's what we're asking you to do. We actually need another 70,000 plus of those heat-resistant bowls. I'm asking you to do it.

So the appeal is as personal and direct as if I could kind of reach out and just take your hand. Say look, please, let's give them the food, let's give them the bowls. And then this, in order to get to those areas we have to add eight ten ton trucks. Some are being replaced -- they're just worn out; some are being added because we're going to other regions and areas. So we need a miracle.

I'm asking you to ask God, "What can I do?" And I'm asking you to go to LifeToday.org or dial that number and take your bankcard and simply make the gift God puts on your heart. If you could help us with those trucks it would be so wonderful. We're going to need a lot of support there. Those bowls cost \$1 each, approximately. Would you help us? We need more than 70,000 of those, eight trucks. And then \$30, \$50, or \$100, we can feed three, five, or ten children for the next months -- that gift just keeps giving.

So I'm asking you, would you please make that gift of love and share the life of God and the love of the Lord with those precious families and children? Thank you for doing it!

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 -- and those at greatest risk are the 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 previous food reserves gone and malnutrition levels in Angola rising due to increased food scarcity, we desperately need to replenish our supplies for our feeding programs immediately. Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months.

Also, please consider an additional gift toward our \$316,000 goal to provide eight all-wheel drive trucks and 76,000 new bowls for the children.

As our thank you we'll send you this soft-covered journal Bible featuring the gospels, Psalms, and Proverbs for your devotional time in the word. With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children please request the complete Holy Bible Journal edition perfect for keeping notes and insights as you read and study.

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 Thomas Kinkade.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: It is amazing -- I'm telling you -- what love does! I'm holding an expression of love right here. This would have been one of the better things the kids brought. They brought oil cans, they brought cans that looked like they had been dug out of a fire pit. They brought any container that they could, even plastic bags that the soup would burn through.

You, as viewers said, "Why don't you, Betty, James, why don't you give them a heat-resistant bowl?" Because you saw the children's fingers get burned on whatever they were holding the soup in. And you do this -- you did it!

You said to the missionaries because the missionaries said, "They've got to have food. We can't be spending money on bowls."

You said, "We will!"

Why did you say that? Because you loved the children we're trying to rescue.

So we need some more of these bowls. Somebody may just say, "I want to give 1,000 bowls." They cost a little under \$1 a piece and they're heat-resistant and they have lines that apportion the right amount so we don't run out. So thank you for that.

I want to tell you what I want to do. I want to show you because a lot of our viewers, they pray. And you watch these missionaries, and all of our relief workers and anyone who represents *LIFE* praying over these children when they reach that last stage at the malnutrition clinic. God, please! And oftentimes, Peter Pretorius will say, "It will be a miracle if that child lives." Beth Moore, oh, she believes in miracles, but it's not often when you really get to see one.

Watch this! You're going to see a miracle and Beth Moore witnessed it firsthand.

On the mission field

Announcer: In 2005, Beth Moore traveled with our mission team to Africa and saw firsthand how the ravages of malnutrition can steal the lives of precious children like this little child known as baby Matthew.

Beth: Lord, we thank you that you are the God who can literally raise the dead. And I pray, Lord, that you would breathe life into him.

Announcer: Returning to Africa two years later, Beth rejoiced at seeing little Matthew, a living miracle because of love in action.

Beth: Okay, now if anybody would have ever told me I would have had to huff and puff to pick this child up, I would have told them they were out of their mind! Let me tell you something, this is a well-fed child today. I'm holding a healthy boy today and I'm telling you, he would have been so light in my arms it would have been heartbreaking when I saw him two years ago. I'd never seen anyone that I believed was closer to death than this child was at that particular moment in that clinic. It was the most horrifying moment of my life on a mission field.

This I can tell you, a child never needs to be in that condition and that's what you and I want to be about, never letting them be in that kind of a state. But let me tell you, we got to see the miracle and God used this child right here to show me that this is exactly what he wanted me to be a part of; that he was working miracles on the field in places like Angola, rural and in the urban areas. He was showing us what he can do if people would be aware and if people would care. That's got to be God -- only God can take a child in the kind of condition that he was in and have this child right here playing soccer. This will always be my miracle, this Matthew, this precious thing.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I tell you what, just a moment, bring that back up with the before and after shot. I mean this is as near death as a child can get and then that's just as happy as a child can be. Beth, you know how much we love you and Keith and Living Proof Ministries and everything you do. Wasn't it fun? Beth, wasn't it fun to see that miracle? Betty, wasn't that something to observe?

Betty: It really is. James, that's the joy of what we do. We're able to show you the need, the before, but the best thing is the after -- the results of what you do when you reach out and you help us feed these precious children.

James: One time during this emphasis on mission feeding, we showed all the children in one particular area and there were thousands where they were -- I was telling them, "Wait a minute! Wait a minute!" It was like I had to become like a military leader, "Wait a minute! Hold up!" Or like a coach, "Wait a minute!" I couldn't get it fast enough to the children and they were so hungry and desperate. We actually, too often ran out of food.

And you prayed -- I remember when you prayed it, "Lord, let the lines waiting to feed and willing to feed the children always be longer than the lines coming to get help." Because we watched those kids crawl in those barrels and scrape the nourishing soup off the sides of the 55 gallon drums that had heated the soup just trying to get something.

But in that very area where you saw that desperation, we watched the parents and the people get strong enough that they could begin to plow the fields for irrigation. We got some wonderful concerned Americans to restore an aqueduct, and they began to grow crops.

Betty, when we went back years later, they were feeding more people than we had fed when they were hungry. In other words, the people that got restored, they became farmers for their own family's need but they were giving food to other people that needed it. It was just a complete love expression. So the miracle of baby Matthew is repeated so many times over.

And if you could take this opportunity personally to where you say, okay, Beth was praying for that baby, and I've got to be honest with you, because Peter told me, "I had to tell her, even after the prayer, 'Most likely, Matthew won't make it through the night. It's that state.'" But we saw a miracle.

But now please understand this. That miracle would not have occurred had the missionaries been empty-handed. See they've got all the love you can imagine to plant their lives in the midst of pain and suffering because of the love of God in them and their children, in order to save others, but they have nothing to offer other than care and prayer if they're empty-handed.

So what we're asking you to do, help us get the trucks we need to carry the food, to bring in everything that's used to make the food and to deliver it, and help us feed 400,000 children and literally turn everything around for them: \$30, \$50, \$100 -- three, five, or ten children for the next months. We need some big time help. I'm talking about some major gifts, \$500-\$1000 to get those trucks. We're talking about over \$300,000 in addition to taking care of the children, the 400,000. So it's going to take everybody participating and doing all you can.

Go to LifeToday.org, take your bankcard, use it like a check or dial that number on the screen. If your heart was broken, you could call that number. It's a love line and someone would pray with you. But right now it's a lifeline, it's a help line. You call and you say, "Here's my gift." And you use that card like a check and you make the greatest gift of love you possibly can. It is love that never fails. It always gives life. Thank you for giving life!

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End of clip

On the mission field

James: If you did not have four-wheel-drive vehicles, you couldn't go 50 yards. This is absolutely essential. We're going back into a village for a feeding program that none of the food would get here. They have to take enough food in to last oftentimes weeks. They load these big trucks up and then they drive way out into the bush. We've been driving for hours.

And so we need you to know that what we have is essential to saving lives, to maintaining the nutrition. It is absolutely critical, like Betty said one time, we're talking about a truck -- no we're not talking about transportation merely. She said, "We're talking about saving lives -- we're talking about lives." And that really is the truth.

So when we ask you to give a truck, provide transportation, it's critical to saving lives and maintaining health and I want to make that point. And from the depth of my heart for those of you who understand, I want to say thank you.

In the studio

James: I believe you're going to LifeToday.org. I believe you'll dial the number, whatever you need to do and you're going to reach out in love. I really believe that. Do remember these trucks; it's not simply a piece of machinery. It's a delivery of love system, it moves life, it saves life because it delivers what it takes to restore the health of these precious ones. So don't take it lightly. They are expensive; they've got to be four wheel drive. We're believing God is going to raise up people.

Father, I pray there will be quite a few people today who will say, "I'll give \$5,000." Maybe someone can give \$10,000. And a lot of people could give \$1,000. I pray they do today; in Jesus' name.

From the depth of our heart we say thank you. We have some beautiful love gifts to send you because we love you, we want to bless you. We never give you a gift to get you to give. We give you a gift because we want to give life and love to you every opportunity we get. That's why *LIFE Today* is here, we're sharing life every day. Thank you for sharing it in the mission feeding programs. God bless you! Encourage your friends to watch *LIFE Today*. I think they'll be glad they do.