

11/16/15
Week 47: Fall Mission Feeding
Shaunti Feldhahn and Craig Gross

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*; I'm Betty and this is James.

James: And you wanted to do the introduction because we're talking about sex; right?

Betty: I thought I should say something in the whole show so that's it!

[Laughter]

James: Now listen to me. Please listen. One of the most beautiful, awesome gifts God ever gave to human beings is sex between a man and a woman. But right now there is an all-out assault on every beautiful thing God does -- on life, the essence and meaning of life, relationships, marriage, family, the church -- everything is being attacked.

We have a very courageous twosome here: a pastor of a church, an outreach that he calls the XXX church.

You say, "Boy, that's off to a really good start! You just lost half your audience." Come on back in.

Listen to me. He actually brought an active porn star here so you could hear why she was doing what she was doing. We led her to Christ right after and she's never gone back into that world. She became a new person right here because God wants to reach everybody.

Well, we have Shaunti Feldhahn and she is an incredible research writer, communicator; and Craig Gross, the one that is the pastor of that church. Here is the title of their book -- and I'm telling you, I think it is like -- you just wish every church leadership and people would read it and then would understand the importance of it -- *Through a Man's Eyes: Helping women understand the visual nature of men.*

You see that; right? You and I have talked about it. So I notice beauty. You do too, though; right? You do too.

Here's the deal; we can talk about it. See we talk, we're still friends. The problem with most people is they don't talk.

I want you to welcome this very courageous couple and we're going to try to cover as much ground in this program and another one to try to help people who are really trapped, oftentimes, and defeated, in areas where they should not be and we ought to be able to deal with it. Would you welcome Shaunti and Craig to *LIFE Today*?

Glad to see you.

Shaunti: Thank you!

James: Tough subject! Let me just give them a few of the chapter titles. Here you go now. You really need to get the book. I'll tell you what we'll do. If you want it, we'll send it to you -- that's how much we love you. We will ask you, let's help together feed some kids that need some food. But listen to the chapter titles: What men see. What do they see? Why men are so visual -- why are men so visual? Do you agree they are?

Betty: Yes.

James: I'm not the only one. You're convinced there are others; it's not just me.

Betty: You told me there were others.

[Laughter]

I'm teasing! I'm teasing!

James: No, that was good! Just because they want to look doesn't make them jerks. You ladies got that? And because they may look, it doesn't mean they're a jerk. You may call us some other things but not a jerk.

The internal outcome of external attraction. Different men different draw. Nixing the knee jerk and not missing the point. Every woman's response. The wife's response. The mom's response. Living in hope. And frequently asked questions.

I actually went back there and glanced at those questions. Dear God! But that's what they ask.

Shaunti, since you're this research person, you know all about the brain, the male and the female brain and you've written these great books and stuff. Clue us in.

Shaunti: So it turns out that God wired men and women completely differently in some areas - not in others, but this is one of those areas. That he created men and women to process the sights that we see in our culture completely differently. And every day, men are seeing sights in public that were only supposed to be seen in private. The way that the male brain actually processes that is completely different than the way the female brain does. It turns out, you know how you as a woman, and probably the ladies in the audience, you know how you see an attractive man and you just think to yourself, Huh! He's an attractive man!

James: He looks nice. He's dressed nice.

Shaunti: Yeah, and that's kind of it; right? For men it turns out that's not it. Because what happens is there is actually a center in the back of the brain; it is a very gut level involuntary kind of center. You know how you don't think about breathing, you just do it. Same kind of function in the male brain; when he sees those sights, the commercial, with the woman in the skimpy outfit and it is just flashed up on the TV and gone; or the girl walking across the parking lot with the booty shorts or -- all those things. There is a center in the back of the male brain that lights up and it is the same center that lights up when --

You know that feeling when you're really hungry and you walk into a room and you see food across the room? And it is this gut level, kind of biological response to that, then that's that center lighting up. Then you think, oh, wait, is anybody eating? Can I go over there and eat that food? Or no, I've got to stop. But that first response is completely involuntary.

The same thing happens in the male brain when he sees those images that again he was never supposed to see, except of his wife. And then after the center lights up then the thinking centers kick in, the cortical centers at the front of the brain, and that's when he goes, "Wait! No! Don't think about that! Don't look there. Take that thought captive. Look away!"

Or some men, they don't care about being honorable. Some men will look all they want and let their thoughts go wherever they're going to go. But that's what we, as women, don't understand because it turns out that when we see an attractive man, that center in our brain doesn't light up.

So millions of men, every day are confronting these thoughts; and especially in the church trying to be honorable, trying to confront those thoughts, tear them down, don't think about that, take that thought captive -- think about baseball scores, think about my wife, think about whatever it takes. And we women are completely blind to the fact that our husbands and our sons are living in a mine field and all that that does. We've got to wake up to this.

James: So you wake up and recognize that it's real but do you see potential consequences if it

is not dealt with appropriately? You seem to indicate in the book it's not dealing appropriately with it if you just make them feel like they're a jerk or "you dirty old man," "you sorry person!" In other words, if you jump them like that, I have found as I've talked to people now for decades, that it actually seems to compound the problem when that's the approach. Am I right about that?

Shaunti: Oh, certainly! Because listen. Craig and I, when we started working on this project, he's been doing this in ministry for years. One of the things that we're very clear about is the man's choice is his choice -- it is completely his responsibility, whether he takes a thought captive and looks away or whether he does something inappropriate with that. But we women need to understand the reason why some of those choices can be difficult, sometimes, as opposed to, "Of course, he shouldn't be thinking that! Of course, he should just turn away." And understand the draw and have compassion that men are living with a normal visual brain that God designed in what has become a very abnormal culture.

James: Okay, Craig, jump in. She's really set the stage for you for people like me and you that have these problems that we need some sympathy or understanding about; right?

Craig: Yeah, I think I don't want to freak out too many women watching, of course, to think well, one, we're not excusing men, like Shaunti just said too. Just because you notice something doesn't mean you're addicted. It might just mean you're human.

I was telling you at dinner, I was leaving a donut store with my family and I'm not thinking about what my wife's thinking. I just ate donuts; I got donuts still on me. There's this woman in neon clothes that walks right in front of our car.

James: You said in private, "partial neon clothes."

[Laughter]

She almost had on some clothes.

Craig: Yeah, she almost had some clothes on. She had her workout outfit on and she had her workout weights and she had her headphones. The sad thing is yeah, I can pull up that image just like it was yesterday. I said to my wife, because she walked in front of our car, "I've got my workout clothes on!" And I just kind of did that -- kind of made a joke.

My wife said, "I'm glad you noticed her."

I was like, "I almost ran her over! Of course, I noticed her!"

And then immediately, my wife says something about, "Well, I feel great. I just ate donuts..."

[Laughter]

And that's the thing. Women and men, and this book is written for women but I think for what men need to -- when men read this and they realize what that message right there, when you look and when you turn around, what that message sends to your wife, she is immediately thinking, I don't live up to that. I don't look like that. What's wrong with me? -- When maybe this has nothing to do with you. So my wife and I had that conversation and she didn't come after me but it wasn't easiest.

Shaunti: It was just a long ride home.

Craig: Yeah. Because there was like hey, I've said now later going hey, women, if you notice the woman in the neon clothes -- your husband has already spotted her out. It would be much easier, if we fast forward two years later, we're finished with this book and my wife had read it and we're on this beach this summer. We're out there with our son and our daughter and we're just casually having a conversation.

She just says, "So the beach is a pretty difficult spot for men?"

I was like, "Yeah!"

And it wasn't like, then we're leaving, and it was just being aware. We sat there and we talked. As we have a daughter and we have a son, just noticing that and being aware of that, how we can communicate without going, "I saw you looking. I saw you..." Don't be the detective but if you, as a couple, can have -- like you said, you two can have those conversations without...

Betty: Communicating with each other in how to deal with it in our relationship. How does that affect us? And to understand, and actually, in communication, James and I have said this so many times, we have to hear the heart of the other person.

James: And sometimes the hurt or the challenge or the battle.

One of the things you and I have talked about is women notice -- it's hard for a woman to be on the beach. You saw the advertising, "Get ready for summer. Get ready to lose weight -- take it off!" They're implying women have very little clothes on because you've taken off so much. It's the way they're always promoting.

But don't you think women notice women and actually find themselves comparing how that person looks or maybe even noticing certain features?

Betty: Women are a lot harder on themselves than their husband or a man would be.

Craig: This is sensitive. I haven't written a woman's book before and I'm probably not the softest sometimes. To have Shaunti here, and we needed a male voice but I just try to say some normal things like, "Hey women, men want to have visual images of you -- and they're married to you."

But immediately, for a woman she's going... we have this chapter talking about how maybe flannel pajamas at bed, maybe there's another alternative.

[Laughter]

James: Well, you even have one about have the lights on.

Craig: So those are -- I realize after I can write that pretty quickly and then the editor and people are going, "Can we soften that up a little?" How do we soften it up? Why don't we try turning the lights on?

But what I hear now after writing this and the many messages going because women, that can trigger something in a woman going, "Well, I don't look like the catalog. Those clothes don't fit me like they did..."

Well, they don't fit anyone like they do those supermodels and your husband is not expecting that. But I see how that brings up, maybe it is some insecurities or maybe I'm not comfortable here. But there's some benefits to be able to be, one, comfortable with each other, to have those conversations and to be honest.

I joke. I think I said in the book, it took five years for us to finally turn the lights on. I said to my wife, "I like to sleep in the dark but why would we -- it's much more enjoyable with the lights on."

[Laughter]

And I think...

James: We've already lost half our audience.

[Laughter]

They're just filing out of the studio.

Craig: It is a sensitive topic but I think if you can get there. And in the book what we've tried to do with Shaunti's voice and my voice, both, a male and a female talking about this, this isn't just a book for a woman to go read and never bring back to their husbands. It is definitely meant to share these thoughts and have some -- we can't tell you what's right in your relationship or exactly how your husband is feeling or this, but there's a lot of stuff that this brings up. But we've got to address it and not pretend that it doesn't exist.

James: Well, you've been ministering at porn conventions and trying to win the stars and people there and you've done a fabulous job. We've actually, you and *LIFE Outreach*, we've actually helped support their outreaches to men who are trapped, women who are trapped or either that's the way they think they have to make their living; you've been able to lead a lot of people to the Lord. The porn issue is very, very big because men are visual, and now then it's just everywhere. I actually commented today. Some woman was on one of the channels on television, a news channel. I said, "She almost wore a dress. She almost wore a dress!"

Betty: This is our news channels.

James: It's like half a dress; the bottom half is not there. This is the way they are. It's a very visual age and pornography -- or you take the Internet and kids are so -- they can navigate beyond anything any of us comprehend but you can be led right down the line right into where you're in a trap or curiosity say, "What's that..." and people have that curiosity and they find themselves trapped. Okay, let's face it.

We had Craig Groeschel here. They have 70,000 people -- think about this -- attending every weekend -- that's a really big church. That's greater than the Joel Osteen church. He's got probably a church that goes from age 22 up to maybe 30-35, very young people.

He said, "When we talk to the men, when we start, we assume that they are all addicted to porn." He said, "We're pleasantly, shockingly surprised when we find one that's not." You deal with that very real issue. You have questions that people ask and how they approach.

The one thing I see, and you tell me if I'm right about this because I feel like if the church doesn't get involved to where we can talk about the very real tension this is building, and really for your children to be trapped so quickly -- and here's the shocker -- now we're finding it's not just men that are trapped but women -- very high levels also trapped. So something is not going right in relationship anymore. It's being damaged. And we, the church, and couples, don't seem

to know how to deal with it. We're going to actually continue. We're going to be in another program and talk about this. The content in the book is something that you really do need to get and look at because you're going to find a lot of help and you're going to know how to deal with your children in a way that they're going to be so exposed to this and that means men and women, boys and girls. I think y'all have done a great job of trying to help.

Let me just say this to all of you who are watching right now. If there is something going on that you know -- you're distressed. Maybe you thought maybe I didn't understand how my husband was wired; maybe I was looking at myself the wrong way or feeling compared or whatever, and that wasn't even what's happening. The man may be trapped. He may be hurting. He needs somebody to talk to. Here's what I'd like to tell you. You may be the man, you're trapped or you're distracted. You say, "Who do I talk to?" Well, you can call that prayer line. You don't have to give your name or you can just give a first name and say, "I'm having trouble. I need to find that safe place and I would like to have the book." Or you may call and say, "We've got issues. My husband's got this problem I see. Maybe I didn't handle it right. Will you just pray with me?" You don't have to go into too much detail.

Father, I pray for every person right now that somehow what's been shared has struck a nerve. I pray, God, that it will release healing sensations throughout the body that I can be whole, we can be whole. We can understand one another. We can fight the battle together, not battle against one another while we're in the battle. Dear God, please show the church how to help people that are defeated and hurting and pastors and church leaders that don't know who to talk to. Dear God, please let us find a safe place in the safest family, your family, with the ultimate father with you God. I pray for every person that is watching; in Jesus' name.

You want to share your heart, you do it. Do you appreciate Shaunti? And do you appreciate Craig sharing? The book is in the bookstores. You can go online and get it. I hope that you will.

I want to talk to you some more. We may even touch on some of the questions I want you all to be thinking. What do we want to talk about in the next program to help people see that there is hope and there is help? And that we can offer that help and that hope freely? Isn't that the primary thing you want, Craig, as a church leader and a pastor? You want people to know the help is there and they can feel safe coming for it?

Craig: The biggest thing with this issue is you feel like you're the only one, and yet it is the exact opposite. You're not alone in this journey or this battle. It is an isolated problem because a lot of times it's in the dark, nobody knows about it. You've kept it from the Lord, you've kept it from your spouse, you've kept it from your kids, you've kept it from your parents. But man, God knows what you're going through and there is a way out.

James: One of the things that we've got to be able to see, and we'll talk about this in the next program. When a husband is struggling and a wife is praying for him, a lot of times that man needs other men that will gather around him and help him and walk this thing out. This is where church functions.

You know what our viewers have learned over the years? Is one of the greatest joys is when they see a legitimate need and they find a legitimate effective way to meet it and that's what I think you all are trying to do. It's not only a legitimate need but you're offering legitimate help. I want you to look. I want you to see a legitimate need that we've got a perfect answer for and here's what you do need to see. You are a very big, if not the biggest part of the answer. Watch.

On the mission field

Announcer: We see it every time we come here -- precious mothers, worry etched deep in their faces, having done all they can to keep their babies alive. It's a parent's nightmare, this desperate powerlessness. But it is a cruel reality in this place.

Each mother has fought through drought, scarcity, and disease. Now she has no choice but merely looking on as her child struggles for each breath, reduced to silent observers because they can do nothing else. Each mother would gladly trade places with her little ones if they could. Instead, they do the only thing they can. Watch. And hope that someone can somehow offer a miracle.

Now you too have seen, but unlike these mothers you are not powerless. You have the ability to offer a miracle. With your help, mission feeding can provide life-giving nourishment in the villages where the need is great. Please! Don't just watch. They're waiting for you to extend a hand of help right now.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I want us to come back to that little child that just turned over and looked. Because I really felt a connection even though I'm looking at the video, our grandson Chris was there, Peter Pretorius, of course, was there and the other mission workers.

But here is that precious little baby with mom looking on and that little baby as all of them you saw, they're looking up at the very person you would think could give them what they need but they can't because they too are starving. Many of the mothers, the milk dries up and they don't

have any breast milk. They end up in one of those malnutrition clinics where we set those up as the last hope. We try to get them, the 400,000 we've got located, and right now in various areas to feed them but we need your help to feed those 400,000 that we've located to keep them from getting to that point.

But that little child, as that baby turned and looked to the side, I felt like, Betty, the child was saying, "I look to Mom, and now I'm looking to you."

My answer is, Betty and I are going to send a very strong gift, as much as we can right now, and we're going to help because \$30 or \$50 or \$100 we can feed three children, \$50 we can feed five, \$100 we can feed ten, and keep them from ending up there. So we are the answer to that little child's look and that child's hope and that mother's hope.

Betty: Absolutely! And that mother has nowhere else to look but to pray and say, "Someone help me. This is my baby that I love so much. This is my baby that is looking up at me and saying, 'Momma, I'm hungry.'"

This is a solution that can easily be taken care of if we'll join together and let's get the food to these precious children. It is a simple solution but it's a big situation, a big problem that we need to solve. Please help us!

James: Well, we really are the answer to the prayer, to the need, to the heart cry. I want to ask you if you would go to LifeToday.org and get your bankcard and use it like a check and say, "I'm going to help those children. I'm going to help those families. I'm going to be the answer to the heart cry, the need, and the prayer." Or you can dial the phone number and take your bankcard and use it like a check. We not only need to get the food to feed the 400,000 that we've organized into feeding areas, in desperate situations, and I know you want to do that, but we also have a critical need. We need a miracle right now.

We've got to add eight ten-ton trucks in order to deliver the food to all the different areas. Over the years we have given scores and scores of trucks. But right now we need these trucks -- and that's a miracle. It's over \$300,000.

We need more than 75,000 new bowls, they're telling us, to go into the feeding areas. If you can help with that, please make the gift God put on your heart.

We have some special gifts to send you to say thanks. But you're going to be giving that mother and those children like you saw and so many others, you're going to be giving them a future and a hope. Please right now go online, LifeToday.org or dial that number and please make the gift that God puts on your heart. 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: You don't have to wonder if what we do works. It works miracles! Love works miracles! The only way we can feed is because of the miracle of love.

The gifts that we're sending you to help you grow in your spiritual life are gifts of love. If you'd like to have Shaunti and Craig's book, *Through a Man's Eyes*: Helping women understand the visual nature of men. That's not so that you simply tolerate it, you understand it and you begin to effectively address it for the benefit of everyone. This is especially important for your children and your grandchildren because boy, they're exposed. Shaunti said, "It is a mine field." It is a mind field too! And it is constantly being assaulted by images and enticement to take people away from even being able to live under self-control and God-control.

I want you to know if you'd like to have the book not only is it in the bookstores but you help us feed those kids, we'll send you one. Just ask for it because we want to be a blessing to you and those you love.

Join Betty and me in saying thanks to Shaunti and Craig.

Thank y'all so much!

Shaunti: Thank you guys!

James: We're going to talk a little bit more about a very serious subject, but I think it's needed right now. Thank you for watching. Tell your friends to watch *LIFE Today*!