

11/24/15
Week 48: Fall Mission Feeding
Korie Robertson

James: Thank you all! We feel welcome! And we welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison; my wife Betty and I are just thrilled to have this opportunity.

Duck Dynasty! My goodness, what in the world is that? I'll never forget the first time... Everybody said, "You've got to watch this show. You've got to watch it. You need to tape it. You just need to DVR all of them. You'll want to go back and get all the ones way back. You've got to see this family." They all had beards. They put makeup on so they can hide from ducks. What are you hiding from ducks for? It's not like they're dangerous!

[Laughter]

They've got these calls. And one of the guys had all of these duck calls and it is like he had 100 of them. They said, "Look at what they've done with duck calls!"

Listen to me. It became one of the most watched programs on television. It was amazing. It was the Robertson family. They had beards for heaven's sake. It wasn't even like combed real neat - they were just beards!

[Laughter]

But what you saw when you watched them was always funny. You think, is this for real? Then all of the sudden you saw reality like you hadn't seen reality. It is like reality that's been missing for a long time.

We've got one of the members that doesn't have a beard, thank God! As a matter of fact, I don't think she would have been married if she had.

[Laughter]

Not to Willie anyway! Willie's wife is here. Here is their family. This is Willie and Korie Robertson, and their beautiful, beautiful family.

Many of you saw Sadie when she was dancing so beautifully, as a star, and was the final two. I think probably joyfully accepted the fact that "I finished second." But she was first in her witness and her example and her family. Didn't you appreciate the way Sadie honored the Lord and family? How beautiful!

Well, Korie has been encouraged to write a book, which she has, talking about *Strong and Kind*, and Other Important Character Traits your Child Needs to Succeed. They need strength, they need kindness. Mother and grandmother and the family understood that. I want you to welcome mom, I want you to welcome Korie Robertson to *LIFE Today*.

Korie: Thank you! Thank you!

James: We feel like we're now becoming another program for the Robertsons because the family just keeps coming through and they all seem to be comfortable. Have the reports back to you been that they're comfortable being here at *LIFE Today*?

Korie: They loved it! Yes! Jessica and Jep were just in. Jessica said, "You need to go on *LIFE Today*." "I think I am, actually."

James: Well, we're thrilled you're here. Are you amazed at the way the story, the program has gone?

Korie: It's unbelievable. Yes. Whenever you read the verse about God doing more than you could ever ask or imagine, he certainly has with our little television show. We never would have dreamed it.

James: The thing that gets me is the way you want to honor the Lord. When I saw Willie talking to Sadie about this first date situation and all, it was the cutest thing. I just absolutely fell in love with the family right there because we have two daughters and five granddaughters and knowing how important that father's concern is, and the rest of the family, and how you looked in watching dad. It was beautiful.

What we actually saw was what we would call a wholesome family that wasn't putting on a front of joy but actually seem to be living in it. Is that true? Are you guys really a family that seems to be together in a really amazing harmony?

Korie: We really are. What you see is what you get on the television show. I think that's what people were looking for, something that was different. I think whenever they put us on the air they thought, oh, we've got this family. They've got big beards. They eat squirrel and they eat crawfish and all this weird stuff. They're from Louisiana. They thought people would watch this

and be like, we're so strange. But instead people watched it and thought, oh, that's like my family. Or that's what I would hope my family would be. I would hope my family would sit around the dinner table together. I would want my dad to be worried about who I was dating and that type of thing. Maybe they wouldn't take them out snake hunting but you know.

[Laughter]

James: He did well.

Betty: People are looking for "real." They want real relationships and meaningful life together -- and they're hungry for the family life too. I really believe that.

Korie: And then the prayer at the end just acknowledges that there is something much greater than what we are. What we are living here on this earth, giving the glory and the honor to God there at the end to say thank you for what we have before us even if it is frog legs or squirrel brains.

[Laughter]

Thank you, father for that. I think that prayer at the end just really resonated with people. It wasn't anything we really planned, it is just something that we do. It was natural for us and God just took it and made it make an impact.

James: It's great. I think the Father and the Creator wants his family to enjoy what he created, rejoice in it and rejoice in him, and love one another, and then love those outside the family, and it is so obvious you do.

When you talked about being strong and kind, which you are, and the other important character traits that you want for your children, would you talk about some of those that you believe are important for our children and for all children, and just tell us why you think they're important?

Korie: I think well, first of all, so I was a young mom. Whenever you first have babies and I was young, I got married at 18 and 19. So we were young parents, 22, 24, and at first you're just kind of trying to survive. You're just like get those babies fed.

[Laughter]

Maybe make them sleep through the night, God! And then all of the sudden you realize, wow, this is a big responsibility. It's not just about feeding our children. We need to get them to

adulthood and have them to have a strong faith and let them know who they are and whose they are.

I was actually at a Bible study and the lady said to me, "What values do you want to sow in your children?"

And so I went home that night and Willie and I talked about it. We just wrote down "strong and kind" because we felt like they would need strength in this world to know that God is with them and for them; and that the strength is not going to come from them, it comes from who created them and who lives in them. So when they have that strength they're able to go out into the world and take risks and to be bold with their faith and be who they are. Then the kindness, and that's for others. We wanted our children to be compassionate and loving and gentle, and all those things that go along with kindness to make the world a better place.

James: Do you feel like you gave suggestions on your own journey with the children that would help viewers and help people who read the book to see how in fact they can instill some of these character qualities in their children? Do you feel like you've given us some guidelines?

Korie: I tried to give some guidelines for sure. We're not perfect parents and we're not pretending to be in the book. But Willie, also contributed. He has "Willie's Little Words of Wisdom" throughout, and tells stories about the kids when they were little, some adventures that we had, and sometimes whenever we might not have done it quite right or we tried to do it better, lessons we learned along the way.

James: Did you like the way he was training when you were watching him dealing with your daughter as they reached the age of dating and watching his concerns? How was it looking in on all that?

Korie: He is a great daddy. But I will tell you, when we got married... So we could not have come from more different families in a lot of ways.

James: Some of them, tell us.

Korie: Let me think. My dad, the only time I remember him going hunting was because it was a business trip. My dad was a businessman and he wore a suit and tie to work. My mom, she could cook a few recipes. We ordered pizza a lot. Miss Kay is an amazing cook. There were a lot of differences.

Whenever Willie and I decided to get married I was 17 and he was 18 and we said, "We're going to get married." And my parents did the whole, "Let's talk about what that means" and all that. "Let's look at a budget. How are you going to survive?"

And Phil says, "You know you can get married in Arkansas at 16. What are you waiting on?"

[Laughter]

So we had definitely very different upbringings. So I come into this family where it is just a different life. It is full of boys and they're fighting all the time.

James: They were country people and you were subdivision. Right?

Korie: I lived in the subdivision. Yes. And my parents actually, this will get you, my parents are pescatarian, they don't even eat meat. Yeah! So there are a lot of differences. So we come and I think a lot of people are like that. You marry someone that was raised totally different than you and you come together as parents and you're like whoa! How are we going to raise these little kids that God has given us with the same values?

And that's really the thing that we had is we were raised totally differently on the outside, but on the inside we were the same. We were raised in families that were very hospitable. We always had someone living with us that needed a home or needed a place to stay. Willie's family always had someone sleeping on their couch that needed a place to crash for the night. We were raised in families that had a strong legacy of faith; that families that stuck together, husbands and wives that stuck together through thick and thin. So loyalty, and self-control and compassion, all those values were taught to each of us in totally different ways but those were the things that were taught to us and that's what we knew we wanted to pass on to our children.

James: How do they feel about the situation now that they've gotten to know Willie and the rest of the Robertson family?

Korie: They're pretty happy about it now. Yeah.

James: Are they amazed at the program too and how it went?

Korie: They are. They've been so much fun. I don't know if the viewers know this but we all live on the same street; so all four of the Robertson brothers, and then my family, and then my aunt and uncle and grandparents. I say Willie and I are the common denominator. It's like four of my side of the family and four of his side of the family and we're in the middle.

[Laughter]

It works out really well. Everybody -- we all work together and help take care of and raise one another's children. My parents are a huge part of that. I'm very thankful to have them.

James: You tell the story in the book about getting pulled over by the police. You want to tell us about that?

[Laughter]

Korie: So whenever the kids were little -- we've all probably experienced this. I've got four little kids in my minivan and we were on -- yes, I did have a minivan. You have to when you've got four little ones. So we'd gone to this family camp and it was this awesome spiritual experience. Willie and I were there and the kids. We did crafts and we sang songs and it was just a great experience.

Well, Willie leaves early because he has to get to work, which of course, that's understandable but that leaves me to pack up four kids and our sleeping bags and all of our crafts and everything that we've accumulated over the weekend.

James: So Willie is a wise husband. He knows when to go to work.

Korie: He was always really good at that.

[Laughter]

James: We go to training school for that.

Korie: So I pack up the kids and by the time we're driving down the road I'm not feeling near as holy as I was a few hours before. So we're driving and the kids are fighting and of course, I'm probably projecting a little bit of my grumpiness on to them. And they're fighting in the back seat.

James: What happened to kind?

Korie: I know! I know! As I said, we're not perfect parents. They're in the back seat fighting and Sadie spills a box of nerds, which nerds have forever been banned in our car since this happened. So I'm reaching back trying to grab, trying to -- and all of the sudden I hear a siren.

James: You're probably driving like this.

Korie: Well, that's what he said. So I get out and he says, "Ma'am, are you okay?" And I say, "Yes, sir." He says, "Well, you're swerving all over the road." Then I realized, he thinks I've been drinking at 10:00 in the morning. I'm like, "I promise I'm fine." Then I just start bawling. I'm like, "I'm so sorry. My kids are fighting in the back seat. Sadie spilled the nerds."

[Laughter]

He says, "Do you need me to talk to your children, ma'am?"

[Laughter]

To this day I regret not letting him talk to my children! Why? I don't know why I said no. But I did. I said, "No, sir, I've got this under control."

[Laughter]

-- Which I clearly did not have it under control. But, "No, sir, I've got this under control."

I just remember getting back in that car and sitting on the side of the road for a little bit and saying a prayer with the kids. And saying, "Okay, we're going to start this over again. We're going to -- I clearly don't have this under control but God does."

I talk about in the chapter about the path that God has laid out for us. When we follow his path our path can be smooth and not curvy and all these things. But whenever you don't follow his path and you try to think you're in control, you begin to start swerving all over the road. That was just a lesson that I learned from parenthood. I think as parents we learned a lot of lessons. Our kids teach us a lot of lessons along the way.

Betty: And our children do watch us closely; don't they? And they pick up things, good or bad that we do. So we're setting a pattern, a path for them. And if we can stop and notice the beautiful things God has individually put in all of them and see the characteristics and the beautiful gifts that God gives each of them because it's been amazing to me of all our children in the same family, they're all different. We mustn't try to make them all alike because God has given them different gifts. But if we can recognize that and then build on those characteristics God's got a purpose for them and he wants us to channel those characteristics in the right way.

James: I think people know us sometimes they think our children watch Betty to learn what to do and watch me to learn what not to do.

[Laughter]

But they learned well. They had these good examples.

I want to say this to you because quite a few of the family have been here, but there's a glow on you that's beyond the physical beauty that God has given you. You have a holy glow of glory.

Would you agree that on this family you can see the glory of God? I really believe that the glory of God is like a radiant glory. I believe you can see it. Everyone has always said that about Betty and about our children.

We had one of our staff lost her husband just recently. I called to comfort her and we were weeping together because she knew I was still identifying with the loss of our daughter. She had worked with Robin when Robin started working at *LIFE Outreach* when she was only 14. And she began to talk about, "I never knew anybody like Robin. I never knew anybody like her. She just had such a glow and she just had such glory on her." And of course, we feel that way. We feel like we've seen it on our children and our grandchildren.

I want you to know it's on your family. I believe God wants it on his family. I believe it's really time for the church to arise and shine with the glory of God on us. Would you agree with that? I think the Robertsons are trying to encourage us to do that. I want to thank you for it. And I want to thank Willie and the whole family. We look forward to having other family members.

Listen to me. This is a blessing. It is in the bookstores. You can get it online. It's something, that I think, if you have children and grandchildren, you'll want to say, "Okay, let me just read what a family that's pretty amazing."

By the way, I was looking through the beautiful pictures of the family that are here and I mean it is really family and it's just absolutely awesome. It is like looking at your own scrapbook except it is a very popular family. But she's sharing with you important character traits so I really encourage you to do it.

I know that you have just recently been to Haiti and I know that your family loves to help people. We're going to show you our grandson; I just referenced the loss of a daughter. This is her oldest son who just graduated from Baylor. And as I may have shared with you before, and I'm sure I have, he went straight to Angola shortly after graduating. I had never seen this. But I know he said, "Papaw, my life was changed. Papaw, it will never be the same." And he's a leader. And he's brilliant, brilliant young man. These children of Robin, the glory of God is on them.

But I want you to look and you'll see here, at the end, you'll watch our daughter's son and I really believe you will sense what Jesus wants to pour out through all of us on those around us. Watch closely.

On the mission field

James: Wait a minute! I can't get them to stop pressing in on us so I can even get to the soup. These people are hungry! I mean the absolute desperation -- I can't even feed them.

Announcer: Unfortunately, too many children know what happens when the food runs out. They know it will quickly become a desperate situation where they are fighting to survive. Children and their parents end up scavenging for anything to eat to fight off their gnawing hunger pains. Sometimes the children will even eat things that aren't even considered food just to try and feel better.

Bruce: I'm sitting here with this little boy and when I came in I noticed he was sitting here and he's eating dirt. He's trying to fill his little stomach and he's trying to take that hunger away. It won't. I've never seen a child eat dirt.

Announcer: The impact of this type of food crisis is particularly devastating to the youngest victims. Once the effects of severe malnutrition set in desperate parents will try and walk for miles to get help in a clinic.

Chris: This is why we need your continued support for mission feeding because we do know she's been here about a week now and if you can imagine she's gotten better, she's improved. So if you can imagine a condition worse than this. Dear heavenly Father, Lord, I pray over this little girl. I ask that you heal her, in the name of Jesus. I ask that we help all these kids; in Jesus' name.

End of clip

In the studio

James: That little baby has never left Chris' heart, and all the other things when he said, "I will never be the same." And to hear his dad say over and over, "Our son has just been so impacted" and he has.

Betty, how do you feel when you see the love and heart of Jesus that our daughter also had so beautifully, and you watch that need that can be met by love, and see how Chris is responding to it?

Betty: So grateful as a mom and as a grandmother that we see our grandson loving children, loving Jesus. That's what God wants for all of us. He wants his love to be expressed through us by caring and seeing the need and reaching out and saying, "We'll help. We'll make the difference. We'll help that mother save the life of her little child that she loves so dearly." So I hope you will join with us because you know Jesus and you know the love of Jesus. Express that love. Join with us!

James: Chris is expressing not only a prayer to Jesus but the heart of Jesus with that baby, "Suffer the little ones to come unto me and forbid them not. And of such is the kingdom of heaven. When you did it to the least of them, you did it to me,"

Jesus said. How many of you would have wanted to give him a drink of water when he said, "I'm thirsty" on the cross. Wouldn't you have loved to alleviate the pain that he suffered for you? Well, Jesus says, "If you'll touch those little children with my hands of love and compassion," you saw how desperate they were to get the food.

Betty, so many times we ran out of food and we'd watch little children crawl down in the barrels and scrape the edge of those big old 55-gallon drums trying to get a little bit left to eat. It would sometimes fall on the ground and they would scoop it up and try to get the nourishment. There were thousands there where we were feeding. We saved thousands of lives. Those people, Betty, when they got on their feet, they began to care for thousands of other people because we taught them how to grow crops. It was amazing. They not only grew the crops, then they helped others; they didn't just feed their family. It's unbelievable what love can do.

Here's what I want to ask you to do. We've got 400,000 right now in need. Chris was seeing some of those that reach the most desperate point but he had also been out where they were doing the feeding and where we fill those little bowls and we turn them around and get them healthy so they don't end up in a malnutrition clinic. We're asking you to help us. We actually need right now something desperately. We need eight more ten-ton trucks; four-wheel-drive trucks to deliver the food. We've got to replace some and we've got to add some. We need over 70,000 more of those heat-resistant orange bowls. All of that is an expense, in addition to feeding the 400,000 that they've organized where we can feed them.

Now we've got to provide the food, and the ability for the missionaries and relief workers to stay there. Here's how it breaks down. \$30, \$50, \$100 enables us to feed three, five, or ten children. That single gift keeps giving for months.

Would you make a gift? Could you give \$1,000 or several thousand dollars toward those trucks? The bowls cost about a dollar apiece. Could you help us with that? At whatever level you can help, please do.

Father, I pray everyone would have the concern that our grandson had with that little baby. Make this little baby well -- take care of this little baby. There are so many of them like that. God help us to get them before they get to that condition and that state; in Jesus' name.

Would you reach out right now and touch someone with love? Would you go to LifeToday.org, take your bankcard, use it like a check? Make the best gift you can. Please do it. You're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life. Or you can dial the phone number there. It's a prayer line if people's hearts are broken or you need help. But right now it's also a help line. You dial that number. Take your bankcard, use it like a check, make the best gift you can. Please do it.

We have some gifts to send you to say thank you and to bless you. But the greatest blessing is blessing others. Please do it. Please give them life. Would you share life today right now? Go LifeToday.org or dial that number and respond as God leads. 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: Well, I just believe with all my heart that you're going to follow the Holy Spirit's leadership and do what God leads you to do. We've only got a short time left to get the resources for those trucks. And that's not something extravagant, it is an absolute essential. We've got to deliver the food, got to get it there. We're asking you to help.

We want to say thank you with the journal edition, the Psalms, and the Proverbs, and the gospels; but also the beautiful study Bible. This is one of the prettiest I've ever seen. The Thomas Kinkade, "Forest Chapel." Please help us with those trucks. If you'd like to have Korie Robertson's book, *Strong and Kind*, to encourage your children and grandchildren, I think you'll treasure it. If you'd like to have it, it's in the bookstores, online. Get it; get a copy for a friend.

If you just simply give a cup of water so to speak, give a bowl of food, and you say, "Would you mind sending me the book today? Would you put it in the mail to me?" We will to just say thank you, along with the other gifts. So please ask for it.

Would you join Betty and me in saying thanks to Korie and all the Robertson family, the *Duck Dynasty* clan?

Bless you! Thank you for blessing us so much.

Thanks for watching *LIFE Today*. But more than that, thanks for sharing *LIFE Today*!