

5/06/16
Week 19: Water for Life
Mission Special #1

James: I'm James Robison. My wife, Betty and I welcome you to the program today. This is a very special program.

Have you ever wondered if miracles are for real? Have you ever needed one? Let me just address this as personally as I can, the fact that miracles really do happen.

We were excited to give the family the first opportunity to share their story of a miracle with their little girl who had an incurable disease, fell into a hollow tree and they wondered how they'd get her out. When they got her out they found that Jesus had met her down there in that tree. And *Miracle from Heaven*, that's the title of a book and then the title of a movie; the most rapidly from book to movie ever! And it was about a miracle.

And Betty, we had that beautiful mother and daughter here telling us about that undeniable miracle that the doctors confirmed.

So what I want to know and I'm asking you as pointedly as I can, have you ever needed a miracle? Have you ever wanted one? Well, they are for real. I want to talk to you about being a part of a miracle that is as absolute in the reality of the possibility as anything you've ever read in the Bible.

Betty, you and I years ago had many of our viewers know that we had a beautiful daughter, mother of three of our grandchildren; our youngest little girl -- our miracle baby! Because we had adopted a son after having our first daughter; doctors had told Betty because she had a condition known as endometriosis, that Betty could never have another child. So we joyfully and prayerfully adopted Randy. He's the father of four of those wonderful grandchildren.

But our youngest child, our daughter, our miracle baby faced a real need for a miracle. She had cancer that started in the throat. She had never been abusive and never smoked; never done anything that would cause it. And then when it was so apparent that she was healed and had overcome it, it went down where the feeding tube had been and cancer began to grow there and it ultimately took our daughter's life.

Here's the reason I bring that up. I don't think there are many people who are listening to me today who don't know someone that needs a miracle. I want to say to everyone who ever prayed for us, for our daughter and her family, her whole life was a miracle, the effect of her life is a miracle.

But the point I want to make is this. When you need a miracle and you witness it there is great rejoicing and gratitude. When you don't see the miracle you hope for you need the miracle of grace and you need the love of God and the peace of God that passes understanding see you through it. But what if I said to you -- and I really don't want you to miss this -- you can be a part of a miracle and I guarantee the miracle will happen.

Betty, you and I have been all over the world. You and I have been in public ministry for more than 50 years, married for more than 50 years, and around the world we've seen tremendous needs. One of the things we've said to people who watch us on television, we have a program called *LIFE Today* as many of you know, and it airs daily, basically around the world; we have watched people just like you become a part of an undeniable miracle. This is not like seeking and searching for a cure. This is knowing the perfect cure and with love being able to provide it.

Here's what I want you to do. I want you to travel to another place on the other side of the world but this is typical of many scenes where the need for a miracle is as real as any you will ever witness. But you -- now listen to me -- you hold the answer.

On the mission field

Announcer: There are certain stories which must be told and must be told because something must be done. Scenes which scream for intervention.

The desperation that Angola's drought has created for Domingas is one of them. But desperation is not a word that can adequately describe her circumstances. In fact, we are finding that no words can. We cannot sufficiently describe the need of Domingas' small family. We simply must show you.

You may not fully understand the nature or effects of waterborne diseases. But you probably understand that these children will not survive much longer with this as their only water. Something must be done.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Honey, when you look and you see those beautiful little girls drinking what is obviously filthy, contaminated disease-ridden water, what goes on in a mother's heart?

Betty: You know what I noticed right off, James? Is when she dipped down in that muddy water and she put it to her lips and then she turned the little cup upside down -- nothing came out. She was drinking -- she was eating mud. There was hardly any moisture to it. It really breaks my heart because that's all they have. She has no choice.

They're trying to get some kind of water into their bodies because you have to have water to live very long and yet this type is going to kill them and they don't have a choice.

James: I want to ask you to do something. I'm really praying miraculously this could happen. That you could just for a moment think if that were one of your children or grandchildren, a pretty little girl. You know I can promise you that some caring person gave the missionaries the pretty little dress that that girl had on, which says to me that love is there in person on the ground.

And since we've been all over the world to see these expressions of love, the love of God through yielded missionaries who have said to us, "James, we know if we share a need with you that can be met you're going to share with the people who watch you and Betty on television. And we know the people who watch you, they're going to care. They're not going to look away. They're not going to change channels or leave the room. They're actually going to seek to be a miracle."

So when you see that filth and that's not just dirty water it is disease-ridden water that they're drinking and it costs so many of them their life. And the miracle -- here's the miracle! Right there in that area where drought is prevailing and the water is drying up, there is water beneath the surface. Sometimes you can reach it by digging a bore hole but that water that comes up in that bore hole, which they will let a bucket down and pull it up to get water, it becomes filthy too, disease-ridden because it has no protection.

But when you go down several hundred feet and you steel case it and you give them a pump they can turn -- children can turn it. We've actually in a setting where we have a school in place have created a wheel, like a merry-go-round that kids play on and they're pumping the water out of the well up into a holding tank. So it's actually like we've advanced them.

You talk about a miracle! And what causes that miracle? See the miracle we so often hope for when we become that miracle, when we become that answer to someone's heart cry, to someone's prayer for the miracle and we're the ones that release it in love, well then the miracle of transforming lives and saving lives and people's firsthand experience in the miracle becomes not simply something hoped for but it is something fulfilled.

God says in his Word in one example, in Isaiah 58, that when you notice the needy and you reach out to them, that your light is going to spring forth in the darkness and you're going to find that God suddenly becomes involved in your situation because you have allowed God to use you in someone else's situation to be the miracle.

Betty, I want everyone who is watching to try to identify; and I don't think you have to lose a child to identify. I think you just look and say God, let me feel what that mother feels or that person or what's on your heart?

You see the number there on the screen by the way? I want to be sure you understand this. We can drill a well in those areas all over the world where the need is great and where the missionaries have shown us the need. We're asking God to enable us to drill hundreds of wells. We try to drill a minimum of 500 every year. The average cost is \$4800. Most of the support comes from the people who give \$48, and we've broken that down to where we know \$48 gives ten people water the rest of their life. What a miracle! Who would have ever thought that could happen? But there is some level at which everyone can help.

We know there are people who joyfully say, "I've been blessed enough I'm going to be the miracle providing a well for that community and giving that gift." I want you to listen to the heart cry, listen to what we could easily see as a prayer crying out for a miracle to prevent crisis, losses. Watch prayerfully.

On the mission field

Open captions:

My name is Pich and I'm 27 years old. I've lived here my whole life. Our water makes me sick. It makes my children sick. It's the only water we have. There are no other options.

A couple of years ago my son got really sick. We didn't have enough money for the medicine we needed. He got so sick and weak and there was nothing I could do. My baby boy died in my arms. [Weeping]

He died just because we don't have clean water. Now, I worry about my daughter. She is still drinking that water. What will I do if she gets sicker? Every time I get that dirty water I'm scared to give it to her but she has to drink something.

I hope and pray that we can get clean water soon.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, do they need a miracle!

Betty: It is a nature of a mother to nurture her babies and when she has done all that she can do there's a helplessness that comes in and you say, "O God! I am helpless in this situation. Please help me! Send someone to help me."

She knows what the problem is -- the water. She knows what killed her son -- the water. She knows what she is giving her little baby girl to drink -- that same diseased water. So what does she have to look forward to now? Another death? I sure hope not.

We can be that miracle that she's asking for by drilling the water wells. I hope your heart's been touched. I hope your heart's been broken enough to say, "I want to help!"

James: It is not wishful thinking, that's not a feeble hope, it's a very real hope and there is a perfect -- I'm telling you -- a perfect solution. I think most of us can say we do face some challenges in our journey on this earth that sometimes seem insurmountable and would truly take a New Testament type miracle for that situation to be effectively addressed and changed.

But with this situation Jesus said, "If you just give a cup of water -- if you would give a cup of water in my name you won't lose your reward."

You know one of the things I pray when you think about that verse? You don't start trying to figure out what's that reward going to be. When I see a thirsty child or I see a person suffering and I can touch that area of pain or hurt and heal it, and be the answer, I don't even need a reward beyond that. When I see what love does to make a positive impact, I don't even stop and think what's in it for me. All I'm thinking about is I want to be the answer to that mother's cry. I want to protect that little child. I don't want her to go through anymore pain.

Well, the answer is a water well. We want to drill a water well right there. It costs \$4800. That's the average cost. There are people, Betty who give a well. You and I asked God to let us do that

years ago, every time that we saw the need in an area, each year, and we've been able to do it as an answer to prayer. Some of you can do that.

There are some of you who could give \$1200 and pray three people join you or \$2400 and pray another person joins you. Most of the support to drill these \$4800 wells comes from people giving \$48. Could you do that? Right now if you'll dial that number or you can go online and use your bankcard like a check and say here's the gift that I'm making to be the miracle that's hoped for, that that mother hopes for, that mothers and people need all over the world. We're going to help you drill another 500 water wells. One well at a time, one gift at a time, one miracle extended from your hands and your heart.

Would you make that call? Would you make that gift? We have some gifts we're going to send you to bless you and say thank you because we love you. We want to invest in your life. And we want to thank you for being the miracle. You become an answer to someone's prayer and you watch how quickly your prayers are answered. It's exciting to be the miracle someone prays for, to be the answer to their prayer.

On the mission field

Announcer: Globally, contaminated water extinguishes hundreds of thousands of lives every year and nearly half of those lost are children under the age of five.

In Angola, mothers face an awful choice between giving their children dangerous contaminated water or watching them suffer from dehydration.

In Cambodia, waterborne diseases are wiping out entire families. Our team encountered parents who have lost as many as seven children.

In the Amazon, disease-causing organisms are not the only danger families face in their daily quest to quench their thirst. In this village, sending your child to the only available source of water means exposing them to a harrowing array of deadly creatures that lurk in and around the water. The vulnerable children who depend on this water for survival must run a daily gauntlet of danger risking their lives just for a drink of water. These odds are far from fair, yet parents reluctantly run this terrible risk with their little ones day after day because there is simply no alternative.

At LIFE Outreach International we can give them an alternative, one that will give them clean, clear, life-giving water but only if you act with compassion today before it's too late.

End of clip

On the mission field:

Kyle: This is Dauphine. She lives in Madagascar and doesn't have access to clean water. Last year a stay-at-home Mom in Texas almost picked up the phone to help support a new water well in Dauphine's village.

This is Rosa. She lives in a tiny village in Central America. Rosa and her children drink water that looks like this. A couple of months ago, a small business owner in the Midwest almost mailed in a check to drill a clean water well near Rosa's house.

This is Vaughn. He's from Cambodia and he's watched his grandchildren suffer from the affects of a waterborne illness. Last week, a Sunday school class in a large church talked about doing a fundraiser to help ease the pain in Vaughn's family.

Dauphine's son almost made it to his 5th birthday. Rosa's baby almost made it through the night. Vaughn's grandchild was almost well enough to leave the clinic. We can do better than almost. Clean water changes everything.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Oh, boy! Almost! Someone almost -- almost isn't enough when you can be the miracle or part of it. I don't want you to be almost persuaded. Paul heard those words, "Almost you persuade me to believe."

What goes on in your heart when you think about someone seeing a need like that that love can meet? What are you thinking?

Betty: James, it's so true. So many times God will put something on our heart and we'll think about it. We think I should do that. But do we always do that? We should if God prompts us. Not only did he put it on our heart, we should put action, we should put feet to our thoughts and reach out and help those. If God has put it on your heart, the thought has run across your mind, maybe I should do that, follow through and let's reach out and make a difference in the lives of these precious families that have no hope unless we reach out.

James: Father, I pray for every person watching that they wouldn't be almost persuaded to do what you put on their heart but they would be totally committed to do it at whatever level and whatever way they can; in Jesus' name.

Would you right now just pause and think, okay, I know I may need a miracle somewhere in my life and I want it. If somebody could bring that miracle to me, it sure would be wonderful! Well, you are the someone that can deliver the miracle to the people we've shown you, that they represent thousands and thousands of people that need clean water.

We're asking you, if you would right now to do what God put on your heart. Don't ever stop and think, well, I don't have much. If Jesus said the woman that gave the smallest amount, the widow's mite gave more than anyone, regardless of the size, because it was her heart; she simply did what she could. Would you do that? If it's just a cup of water, would you give toward a well of water? \$48, ten people water the rest of their life. Could you do that? Or even a part of that, would you do something? Call the number, go online, put it on your bankcard, use it like a check. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* because that's what you're giving. Just make it to *LIFE* and put it in the mail. But would you call us and tell us what you're mailing? Or would you call and use the bankcard and make that gift today?

If you can give a part of a well, \$144, 30 people water the rest of their life, \$1200, pray three join you, we've got another well. \$2400 one joins you, we've got a well. \$4800, some of you can give that. I believe you'll want to because God has blessed you and you say, "I'm going to give a well. I'm going to drill a well in that area. I'm going to be the miracle. I'm going to be the answer to that person's prayer."

Thank you so much for doing it. We have some gifts we'll send you just to say thanks and to be a blessing to you. Thank you for giving the greatest gift, the gift of life because of the love of God in your heart. You become the miracle.

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End of clip

In the studio

James: I want to thank you so much. Betty and I both say thanks in behalf of the families whose lives you've touched, the miracle that you made possible.

We would like to send you, our pastor, Robert Morris has written a book called *Frequency*, letting you know that you can hear God clearly -- very clearly. You can tune your ears to hear the voice of God. We will send you this book to say thank you so much for sharing the love of God with those in desperate need. Thank you for releasing the miracle that was longed for and so desperately needed. God bless you and continue to bless through you is our prayer for you.