

7/01/16
Week 24: Medical Cure Partnership
James and Betty Robison
Sheila Walsh
Clubfoot Special Mission Show

James: I want to show you something. I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are here.

This is an extreme position. These are tiny little booties that will go on a baby. What happens with these incredible adjustment agents of bracing, it corrects clubfoot problems, which is prevalent all over the world. As a matter of fact, with our mission workers we have now targeted 18 nations where children with clubfeet grow up, many of them, totally unable to walk. You'll see them in adult life as a beggar with their feet totally twisted.

We experienced that in our own family with our oldest daughter having pigeon toed was where she was, and they had to turn her feet out which is like this. But this is the simple way. Now there are serious surgeries to repair some of it.

But here's the miracle. There are medical doctors that are ready to go and do the surgeries at the lowest possible cost. You would not even be able to touch that potential here in the states or the advanced countries. But this is a sacrificial time for these doctors in giving their gift and yet there is a certain cost -- it is still expensive.

But to give these braces, Betty, there are two children, two sets of braces, \$34; and \$68 you've got four kids. So we have something to be very excited about.

And also, Sheila Walsh who is now part of *LIFE Outreach* and *LIFE Today* has just come back from the mission field. Sheila, I want you to just take off and tell our viewers what happened when you went over and saw these children and even adults. What went on inside of Sheila Walsh and your son, Christian, a freshman at Texas A&M University?

Sheila: It was really remarkable. I actually several times said, "I wish James and Betty were here." You would have just -- just those babies, Betty.

There was one woman in particular who just broke my heart. We were at the hospital getting some of the children fitted for these little braces and a mom walked in and she was very distressed. She was sobbing. Her baby was five days old and because she was poor, the minute she gave birth to the baby they would just basically wrap the baby up and said, "The baby is fine" and sent her home. So she went to her mom's and unwrapped this little blanket and her baby has a severe clubfoot. She just sobbed. She wandered into the hospital that morning wondering if there was any hope.

And to be there with our team -- and by the way, I don't know if you know this. Our team that goes on the road that does this, they are amazing! They are godly men and women who pray before they film a single thing. But to be able to say to this woman, "Listen, there is help and there is hope. And we can do it today." That little one, went that day straight upstairs, I went with her, to the fourth or fifth floor and watched her get the little plaster cast on it first and then to be able in the name of the *LIFE Today* family to lay my hands on this mother and pray for her.

The baby kept crying and my son asked the doctor, "Do you know why? Is the baby crying because his feet hurt?" And we found out no, the baby is crying because the mom is so malnourished she is not producing enough milk to feed the baby so the baby was hungry. So my 19 year old son literally emptied his wallet out and gave it to her and said, "Let's go and buy milk." -- Because that was the only way. She had half a bottle left and that's all she had that day.

I just think what a privilege not just for us but for our kids. College kids today, when it comes to the relationship with Christ they're all in or they're all out. They want something bigger to live for. They want to know their life makes a difference.

My son tried to talk on camera. He said, "Not only does this poor mom, not only is her little baby sick but she has a heartache of not being able to feed him." He said, "If I miss dominos pizza for two days I can put braces on two children."

James: Wow! You know what? Christian is a freshman at A&M; how old is he now?

Sheila: He is almost 20.

James: How old was he when he walked from out here right up here with money? How old was he then?

Sheila: He was five years old.

James: And he wanted to bring the money to *LIFE Outreach* and our mission projects.

Sheila: He saw the thing you did with providing bowls for children because if they don't have the bowl to put the food in they get nothing. So he saved up for a whole year. And it was so heavy. I kept saying, "Dude, we could take to the bank and get notes." He was like, "No, mom, this is what I saved. I'm bringing every penny."

James: He did do that. So you actually saw him at college age now living that out.

Let me show you what we're talking about. I want you to just look and see what love can correct. Look at this. I think your heart will leap to say -- I say it many times, you can be someone's miracle. You can be the answer to prayer. Miracles do happen. You can be the agent that delivers a miracle that is an absolute sure thing. Watch!

On the mission field

Sheila: This is Dariel. He's a six-year-old boy who didn't get help when he was a baby but it's not too late for him. At the moment, life's a little difficult for Dariel. He can't play baseball with the other boys. He can't play soccer. When I asked him what he gets to do it's kind of reduced to playing little games on somebody's phone. Perhaps that's because nobody laughs at him then and nobody points out what's different about his feet.

We have seen what the future looks like for a boy like Dariel. It will be very hard for him to get a job. Hard for him to get married, to make a life because so many people think there must be something really wrong with you if there is something like this wrong with your feet.

It reminded me of the story -- remember the story of when Jesus is someone's house and he's teaching? Four guys have a friend who needs Jesus' help but he can't get there by himself. Do you remember what they did? They put him on a pallet and they literally went up on the roof and cut a hole in the roof and lowered their friend to the feet of Jesus. That's what we want to do. Not just for Dariel but for thousands of children around the world. We want to pick them up and we want to lay them at the feet of Jesus.

The amazing thing is that not only are we going to bring healing to his legs, we want to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to his heart. We want this boy to know God loves you so much he's not going to leave you like this. Would you help us?

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, Dariel, I know you couldn't understand this English, especially old Texan English but your little face, your little countenance reminds me of our six grandsons when they were small. By the way, when our grandkids were real young they too were giving money to take care of little guys like you Dariel.

Sheila, you commented earlier about how wonderful the hearts and commitment of the team members, our mission team members. And one of the things viewers will frequently ask, realistically and rightly so, "Does what they're doing at *LIFE Outreach* overseas, does it really work?"

Sheila: Wow! Does it really work? Oh my gosh! I have never -- the thing that's amazing about the clubfeet thing is you get to see the before and the after. That's the amazing thing. I can't wait later down the road to be able to show Dariel with his feet corrected playing baseball for the Dominican Republic. It is just amazing to actually see the difference it makes.

What I love is, I said to Dariel's mom, "You just see me, one face. I'm one face representing thousands and thousands. We're a family. We're called *LIFE Today* and we come in the name of Jesus because God heard your prayer. And he said to us, 'Hey, somebody is praying down there. You want to go and give them a hand?'"

Betty: I feel like there are a lot of mothers watching. And you and I, we're mothers; we have a mother's heart. What does a mother's heart want when we see a child hurting? We want to fix it. We want to comfort. We want to hold them and we say, "It's going to be okay."

Well, we can say to these children if we will reach in our heart and reach out to them, it's going to be better than okay because you're going to be able to walk again -- or for the first time possibly.

That little boy, as I watched you taking steps with him, I thought, I bet you're saying I wish I could walk straight for him -- take those steps for him.

Sheila: And he showed up for one baseball game because that's his dream. They said, "Go home." They looked at his feet. So many of these countries are superstitious; they think if there's something wrong with your feet, there is something wrong with your life. But Jesus brings life.

James: When you were talking about Rhonda, about a mother for children. I'm thinking of Rhonda when she was just little and she broke an arm on one of her dolls. You couldn't fix it. You said, "Well, daddy will be home. Daddy will fix it." You were talking about moms wanting to make it well. I'm going to tell you, daddies are the kind of guys that like to fix it -- a broken heart, a broken relationship, a need.

I remember when Rhonda was telling you when she was about five that she wanted Jesus to come into her heart and she wanted to be saved. You said, "Well, honey, you need to understand it a little bit more. When daddy gets home daddy will talk to you." She said, "Yeah! When daddy gets home he'll say, 'You better get saved right now!'" -- Because she had heard me preaching in all the stadiums and coliseums. But she did get saved as a child.

So parents have this incredible desire to make things right. The beautiful thing about our viewers is, Sheila, when they see a need that can be met and a very effective way to do it, I honestly think most people, I don't care if it is give a home to a puppy that hasn't got a home, take care of something that's hurt, when they see a need and you don't hand it off to some other entity but you put it on the hearts of people to literally reach out, that's when that impact is there.

What you saw with the medical doctors willing to give their time, when you saw the relief and mission workers, then you know we've really got the solution. And you see that countenance of that little boy just waiting to respond to love. I mean it is love that never fails. That's what I feel like our viewers express continually.

Sheila: I also got to see when I was there a miracle for somebody who thought it was too late. You see moms and dads might bring their little children in but what happens if you meet a father who has clubfeet and never got help? Now he brings his little one in because his son has clubfeet and he's hoping, praying for help for him. We were able in the name of *LIFE Today* to say, "You know what Jeffrey? God heard your prayers and not only are we going to bring help for your son, maybe it is not too late for you."

James: And that's a major surgery and a painful surgery the doctors told you, and you told him.

Sheila: We actually said to him almost what Christ said to the man at the pool of Bethesda, because I talked to the doctor the night before. He was trying to have his dinner, poor man. I'm like, "No, let me talk to you about Jeffrey. Is it too late? Is there anything we can do?" He said, "We could do it. If you want, I'll fly down in two weeks with another specialist. We can do it. It will cost a lot and it will hurt."

So I said, "Okay, let me talk to Jeffrey."

So I said to Jeffrey, "Jeffrey, you went outside and you cried out to God and you said, 'God, I'm okay with me being handicapped but not my boy.'" I said, "God heard your prayers and we're here. But God comes with a bonus. God's maybe going to say, 'Jeffrey, it's not too late for you. Do you want to get well?'" He said, "Yes! Yes!"

James: There are a lot of people who want to be whole. How many times have I said to you, if you watch us, there are people all over the world praying for a miracle? You can be the answer to the prayer, you can be the miracle. This man was crying out. This man wanted so desperately to have a miracle for his son. You made it clear he could have one for himself.

Now when you found out it was very, very expensive, what happened to you and your college freshman son as you looked at the situation? And I've got to believe this. I think a lot of times what we look when it moves over and we're actually seeing the way God sees it, what happened to you?

Sheila: Well, he's like my little brother. Jeffrey, I don't know, he's probably in his 30s but he loves God. I talked to his neighbors and I said, "What is Jeffrey like?"

They said, "He works so hard. He's a good man."

I looked at Christian. Christian said to me, "Mom, we've got to do something."

Barry, Christian and I have had a tithe, we've been waiting for God to tell us what to do with, it's more of an offering, and the Lord said, "I want you three to be Jeffrey's family. I want you to pay for the surgery."

Christian said, "Can we tell him Mom? And then can we tell him like in six months we'll fly back down and we'll bring him his first pair of cool shoes he's ever had in his life!"

[Laughter]

James: Now here's the thing. She actually came in when we were taping and brought the amount. It's a lot. Sheila, I'm simply going to say that I've been asking God to multiply that because I think we've got a lot of adults that have kind of given up on themselves and I'm glad they're thinking about kids. I know you will too. When you think we can do the simple braces for the little children to turn their feet right so they won't be clubfoot, and they only cost two

pair for two children is \$34, \$68 you've got braces for four, and \$102 for six. There's a level we can help.

But I want you to see this man. I want you to see Jeffrey. You tell me if you could do it, would you help some other adults? Because the doctors are willing to give their time, take the necessary assistance but we just have to cover the basic costs, and it is really microscopic compared to what it costs to do these things in the states or in the advanced countries. We don't totally understand all that, do we? -- A lot to do with health care. Could be some adjustments done that people would just want to do even who are producing this. We don't want to limit the ability to find help but oh my, it is so expensive. But would you cover what Sheila did? Look at what she saw.

On the mission field

Announcer: "The sky is the limit!" It's what we say when we dream of the future. But since his birth Jeffrey's future was set to be defined by a foot abnormality commonly known as clubfoot.

Interpreter: I used to be self-conscious about playing ball. I always liked that sport but I could never play it. I was very self-conscious. Two times I tried to get work when I was young and they didn't give it to me because of that because I have problems and such.

Announcer: Against the odds, Jeffrey has risen above his circumstance to secure a job and start a family. But when his son was born, Jeffrey was in for a shock that was all too familiar. Although it is not genetic, clubfoot is common enough that Jeffrey's son was also born with a condition.

Interpreter: I was asking God, "Why my son? -- First me, and now my son? Just help me, Lord."

I knew a woman that had two kids with the same problem with the feet. When I see those kids they touch my heart. Today, there's cause for hope and Jeffrey's son is being treated. But with thousands of children still suffering from clubfoot there is much more work to be done.

End of clip

In the studio

James: For some of them, like the one you saw there with Jeffrey getting the treatment with these little infant little booties and the little brace, steel brace that can be adjusted in the angle,

this is when they're really reaching the point of being totally corrected when they've gone to the opposite extreme from being toed in. It is a process, and when they're tiny little infants their bones are flexible and they can be adjusted. It's what we actually had to do with our oldest daughter. As she even got a little older she wore bigger shoes and a heavier brace. It wasn't fun to sleep in. She just had to just sleep in it at night but it was correcting things for her. So we can identify. We have friends here that faced that problem.

When you look at this man with this situation he had and his heartache that can be easily corrected for his son but you also saw, and I'm going to ask them to put them back up but look at that little boy with those legs so terribly twisted, and then look at those clubfeet that are so advanced in that stage because the child is older. That's going to take surgery. You can't get a simple brace; you get two sets of these braces for \$34 and you can have four children corrected for \$68. It is amazing that just a small amount corrects the situation that could have been corrected for Jeffrey.

But then you saw those other children, they were extreme. That's going to take surgery. So what we're really asking God to let us do is to provide 10,000 children with these braces and 400 surgeries in 18 countries. The way we find these situations and access to help these precious ones is because of the missionaries there with the love of God in their heart, they find them and they don't just walk away and not care. They take very seriously answered prayer. They know that together we can be the answer to the prayers.

So Sheila, what you saw, if our viewers would step up like you and Christian where I would really wish that there would be hundreds of people that would do what you did and say, "We will pay for a surgery. We will even pay for one of those very expensive ones to let a father see his miracle not only with his children but in his own life." I pray God multiplies that. I feel like that's what you're praying. I think that's what you're longing for.

Sheila: Because the truth is if they don't get the surgery, we saw what happens. They end up literally as beggars in the street. We were driving on to the hospital and we saw these two men in wheelchairs and we all said, "Stop the van!" And we got out and through a translator asked them about their life. They said, "This is our only hope. All we can do is beg because people think we're cursed by God."

And to be able to say to them, "No, no, no! You're not cursed by God. You are loved by God."

To pray over these men in the street, and even with Jeffrey, when we told him we could do the surgery, he said, "Oh, it is too much!"

I said, "Okay, Jeffrey. Let me ask you a question. If I had clubfeet and you had enough money to pay for my surgery, would you pay for me?"

And he said, "Yes, I would pay for you."

I'm like, "Okay, we're the body of Christ. We belong together. We can do this."

And it makes such a difference. I told everybody there, "I'm coming home and I'm going to tell my family about you."

And Jeffrey said, "Tell them I pray for them too."

James: What do you want our viewers to do? You went over there and poured your heart out in love. You see what we do all over the world and you know everything we do. We can sit here and pray, we can even weep along with the parents but if we didn't in some way put feet to our prayers, action to our compassion, nothing would happen. What do you want our viewers to do as they look in right now? We're going to show them what certain amounts will do if they'll give. What's the longing of your heart? What do you want the viewers to hear?

Sheila: I want every single one of you to do the best you can. Some of you can just pay for a couple of pairs of these. Just skip a movie for a weekend. There is nothing good on anyway apart from a couple of really good movies. But skip a movie! Skip a couple of takeout pizzas and do that.

But some of you are in a position like Christian and I where we could do more. All God asks us -- remember the feeding of the 5,000? They look at this vast crowd and think, oh, gosh, we could never feed all these people. What did Jesus ask them? He said, "What do you have?" That's all he ever asks. He says, "What do you have?" If we bring what we have, he will bless it, he will break it, and he will feed and heal his people. And if we all do it, we will change the world in Jesus' name.

James: And I just so pray -- I pray you hear what Sheila said. I'm looking here at the cost of these surgeries. Now I want you to just listen. We'll show it to you again but you can go to LifeToday.org, take a bankcard and say, "I'm going to do that." And use that bankcard the way you always should, like it's a check.

Or you can dial the number in a moment. Some people are calling every day with prayer. Even with this serious appeal to help correct little feet and serious surgeries, more people are calling now for prayer than call to help -- and we want them to call for prayer.

But look at this. \$34 two sets of braces -- two children -- \$68 four children -- \$102 six children. \$400 is the cost for a serious surgery on a child -- \$800, two children -- \$1200 three.

The serious surgery that Sheila and her son and her family were led of God to give was \$5,000 - very serious. I'm believing that there is some who would say, "Find me another serious situation. I'm in."

But there are many of you who would say, "I can do the \$400 or the \$1200 for three, and I can certainly do the gift for the braces.

Would you right now very prayerfully become someone's miracle? What if it was your child? What if it was your grandchild? Wouldn't you want it?

And isn't it wonderful what Sheila asked that man? "What if it was me that way," Sheila said. "Would you want it for me?"

What can you do? I pray right now you extend the loving hands of God to correct some very serious challenges and to God be the glory.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Children born with birth defects in underdeveloped nations are often overlooked, uncared for, and even abandoned. For tens of thousands every year born with a condition known as clubfoot, their deformity leads to a struggle to just survive. The good news is there is a simple and life-changing solution. This summer with your support, *LIFE Outreach* will provide 10,000 children with corrective braces that will give them a chance to walk like any normal child.

With the cost of \$17 per brace your gift of \$34 will help provide two children with corrective braces, \$68 will provide for four children, and \$102 will help give six children braces and the opportunity to walk. And for children with a much more severe need gifts of \$400, \$800, or even \$1200 will help provide life-changing corrective surgery for one, two, or three children in need.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you Beth Moore's devotional, *Blessed Mornings and Restful Nights*. With your gift of \$102 or more to provide six children with corrective braces you'll also receive the journal edition N.I.V. Bible.

Finally with your gift of \$1200 or more, you may receive "Majesty," our 2016 commemorative bronze sculpture. This summer join with us to give children hope for a future. Let's give them a chance to walk.

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: We just want to say a big thank you. This beautiful journal -- this is one of the most beautifully bound Bibles and it has this wide margin for notes.

Here is Beth Moore's *Blessed Morning, Restful Nights*. This is so good! Because blessed morning, boy, she can get you in the word in the morning and she can bless you at night and get rest.

But then here is *Peace for Today*. This is five minutes with Jesus. Sheila is so gifted. I think, okay, I try to write. I struggle through. I get help. But she just has this flow. It is like if I tried to sing that would be so awful you would say, dear God, help you to be able to sing in heaven because you can't do it here, son. She can do all this. But let me tell you something, this Five Minutes with Jesus, what a blessing. If you'd like to have it, you just help us bless some of these kids and these folks and you say, "I want that book by Sheila too." We'll send it to you.

Thank you, Sheila. We're sure glad to have you on the team.

Sheila: Thanks for letting me go. I can't wait for the next trip!

James: Well, I just pray everybody watching, I just pray you do your part expressing the heart of God. Thank you for doing it.