

7/18/16
Week 30: Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Peter and Ann Pretorius

James: Betty, are you excited about our guests?

Betty: I really am. I didn't know that we were going to get to have one of these guests back.

James: I want to tell you. We have a living miracle. I'm James Robison, married to Betty; married 53 years to Betty. That's a miracle that she would be with me that long. You're saying, you've got that right!

Listen! We've got what I just have to say is a dead man walking. I mean we've got a man here that it looked like there was no way he could live. When your heart doesn't beat for 45 minutes, you don't have oxygen, you're pretty well done. What Peter Pretorius, our missionary over basically all of the outreaches we're involved with on the continent of Africa and a man that's literally in every way he could expressed the heart of God to a world that so desperately needs to know God and his love. Peter Pretorius is here as a miracle.

Ann Pretorius could be as great a miracle as all that went on in his physical body to see his life saved miraculously to where every doctor that sees him now will actually call in other doctors and say, "He should not be here. This man should not be alive." In other words, we're looking at an undeniable miracle. Ann Pretorius Ann Pretorius, his wife, married 40 years and I'm talking about a miracle of God the way she was able to endure and with the prayers of people all around the world. Peter Pretorius is miraculously alive and continued to exalt Jesus and his wife Ann Pretorius is here. Would you welcome Peter and Ann Pretorius back to *LIFE Today*?

[Cheers & Applause]

Well, I just can't tell you how happy I was to see you. You look great!

Peter: Thank you! And I could feel you're happiness.

James: Well, it is a miracle, Peter because Ann is keeping us in touch and you don't know what's going on. How long was he actually in a coma, Ann, where he didn't know anything? How many days?

Ann: The first 12 days.

James: Twelve days, he's basically gone. Can you just catch our viewers up with what happened to Peter?

Ann: It was extremely serious, James. He went in for a triple bypass heart surgery and they reckoned it would be a couple of weeks and he would be up and going again.

They did the surgery, took him through to the intensive care after they came out of the operating room and they said they were just settling him there and I would be able to come through and see him. The next thing I saw staff running backwards and forward to the operating room. None of them would make eye contact with any of us. I was sitting there with the family. We realized there was an emergency but hoped it wasn't him. It turned out it was him.

They fought for seven and a half hours, they worked on him. The first 45 minutes just trying to get the heart going. He was trying to pulsate the heart but realized the blood had coagulated and the clots could have gone anywhere in the body if the blood could move. So he had to syringe with a saline solution; he had to syringe every chamber of the heart out and each one of the valves to try and get him --

James: Now they have him on a life support connection while they're doing this?

Ann: No!

Peter: No, because if they did the blood would have circulated and those clots would have gone everywhere.

James: It would have destroyed your brain; it would have totally destroyed...

Peter: I was clinically dead for 45 minutes.

James: Unbelievable! So he used the saline solution. Go ahead.

Ann: He cleared the heart out and he managed then after all of this time, they then managed to get him onto the heart/lung machine that they inserted into the groin into the heart so that the machine could work the heart because his heart was not capable of pumping. They got that going. Then they got him on to the ventilator for the lungs.

James: You said your lungs, Peter had collapsed; both lungs?

Peter: My lungs collapsed, my heart collapsed, my kidneys collapsed; so literally, everything was working through machines assisting me. They even put a permanent port in. They thought I was going to have dialysis for the rest of my life. They put the port in, they tested it. It was working. They never used it, James. By the time they wanted --

James: How long were you on the heart/lung machine? How long did that process take?

Peter: Five days.

James: Were you in a coma then?

Peter: Yeah. They can't go longer than five days because the blood is restricted to the leg and the leg starts to get gangrene. I had gangrene in both my feet and in my toes. They can't go longer. If they go longer than the five days they can end up amputating your leg.

So it is that whole balance of when do we get him off of the machine? And then after the five days, there was such tension because not many people live after they come off the machines.

James: You were communicating but what's going on inside of Ann Pretorius?

Ann: I've never had to trust God in such a dimension. The faithfulness of God is something way beyond anything that I even knew. And we've trusted God for lots of big things all over Africa with the work that we've done over all of these years. But somehow to sit in a personal crisis like that, the faithfulness and the bigness of God became so real to me. The magnitude of the body of Christ who were praying and encouraging and saying, "We're standing with you. We're believing with you."

Because you must remember, James, I'm sitting in an environment for 32 days and 32 nights in the intensive care where we're surrounded by death, negative reports, negative input from all of the doctors about his condition because day after day it was just something else, something else. Then there's infection. Then we have to test. Then we're doing more blood. They gave him 22 units of blood during this whole process.

So every day there was something else that was terrifying and yet, just about every day there was another little miracle -- and sometimes a big miracle. I think that's what kept me so encouraged because I knew that I knew that God is going to see us through and that I could believe in the impossible, the substance of things hoped for. If I hung on to faith, it wasn't the evidence of what we see it's what's not seen. What's not seen was the hope that this man would be with us.

Peter: The night that they did the work on me in the intensive care, Ann asked the surgeon, "How much chance does my husband got?" He said, "About half of one percent."

James: Half of one percent.

Betty: Ann, you were there long enough waiting, with other families who were waiting and you saw a lot of people get sad news, didn't you? A lot, they'd lose their loved one.

Ann: Yeah, that was very difficult because you're all sitting in one little waiting room hoping that there would be enough chairs for all of us and everybody's hoping against hope that something will come through for their loved one in the intensive care. So you share one another's stories. You're talking with one another, you're praying with one another and they're having family members die on them, one after the other.

My concern then was to try and keep this from Peter, once he was a little bit more compos mentis; that he didn't need to be surrounded by death. He was coming through, and he needed life. This is where they were just remarkable. They allowed us to bring some of the grandchildren in to see him once he started to respond -- but that was already when we were on a better road. But they even allowed them into the intensive care unit because they could see how he would brighten up.

They told me that they didn't know what extent the brain damage was going to be. So they didn't say whether there will be, they said, "the extent of the brain damage." Because for the brain to have been under that kind of pressure and without oxygen, without fresh blood supply for the period of time that it was, they anticipated that it could be very severe plus there could have been clots in the brain, the lungs, anywhere.

James: And the doctors were not professing Christians but did they actually say it was a miracle?

Peter: Yeah! My cardiologist is a Jewish man and he came into the ward the one day. This was like about two weeks after the surgery. He said to me, "I'm giving you a new nickname." I said, "What is that, doctor?" He said, "M.M." I thought what kind of candy-coated sweet? [Laughing] He said, "Miracle man." He said, "You know what? You have restored my faith that God still does miracles."

It was just absolutely incredible.

James: When did you become aware of how serious it was? At what point were they able to tell you what you had actually been through because since you were in a coma for 12 days, how

far past that then did they kind of bring you up to speed say on what you had actually been through since you were basically away from the situation and they were very much with it?

Peter: It was probably around two weeks after the 12 days. But I mean those two weeks were really different, James. I mean difficult for Ann because she was really concerned about the brain damage and whatever. And I was doing really strange things. I mean I had double vision so I was seeing one image over there, another one right here in front of my face. It was annoying me so --

James: She said she saw you keep doing this all the time. Like you were getting something away from you. You probably thought that something's gone wrong.

Ann: I did! I thought his brain is not functioning. And then I checked with the medical team and I said, "What medication do you have him on that he's doing these strange things?" And they said, "It's definitely not medication. This is the brain. There's activity happening, there's trauma in the brain and we're just watching it."

James: But you were actually seeing vision that had been damaged by what you had been through and you were seeing an image out here and the same image right here.

Peter: And then the one day I said to her, "Can you see this orange writing on my hospital gown? It looks like its Chinese." [Laughing]

James: Was it there?

Peter: No.

Ann: No! And it was such a dilemma. Do I tell him, "Sweetheart, there's nothing there." Or do I pretend there is something there and make him feel a little bit better?

Peter: Then my cousin came to visit and I told him my granddaughter had been eaten by a crocodile.

James: And you saw it.

Peter: I must have had a dream.

James: But it was very real to you.

Peter: Very real! I said, "I saw her in the crocodile's mouth."

Ann: But he wasn't distressed; that was just very matter of fact.

James: Are you past all of that now?

Peter: Yeah. Definitely.

James: We look okay over here?

Betty: How long did it take before you could tell his thinking and everything was getting back to normal?

Ann: It was slow. But day-by-day there were improvements. He wanted to get out of the hospital. He wanted to get out of bed. The drive that's in Peter Pretorius started to become very evident. I realized he was still just who he is because he thought he could do things that there's no way he could do. He couldn't sit up in the bed. He couldn't feed himself. And yet, he was saying, "Get me out of here! Put the side down." "No! You're not going anywhere." But he felt I was the one holding him back.

Peter: When they were trying to get me to walk they brought this walker. I looked at this walker and I said, "I can't use that thing."

The physiotherapist said, "Why can't you use it?"

I said, "It's got no wheels."

How do you walk with something? At least I didn't say it's got no V8 engine. [Laughing]

James: And he used to be a race car driver in a Formula One before he got saved.

Okay. This is a miracle. Thanks to all of you who knew and prayed. Thanks to all of you who just know the mission work that God has called us to together for more than 25 years to save millions of lives, to win more than 10 million people to Christ who came to Christ because of outreaches, your prayers and your resources supported. And those of you who prayed them through with this miracle, thank you! And the miracle continues. To God be the glory.

Don't you say thanks to God for the miracle you're seeing right here? Because he is God's miraculous power and it is the prayer of people.

Okay, Peter. We've been in the mission fields together for 25 years. It's been one of the most special things. You're going to do another program with us. We're going to talk about missions and about outreach. You don't want to miss it because we're going to talk about what love on earth, when it is manifested freely, what it does. You'll be thrilled.

But what do you take from what you've just been through?

Peter: One of the most powerful things is it's lifted my faith in such a dimension, James. I believed for others before but it now came home and I went through this whole struggle. But the big thing for me was the 12 days that I was in a coma thinking back. And those seven and a half hours that they were working on me because there were no Christians there. None of those doctors were Christians. My family was not with me. I was unconscious. Yet Jesus was with me the whole time.

People have even asked me, "In that 45 minutes did you see heaven?"

I said, "No, Jesus was with me. Why would I go somewhere else? I don't have to go somewhere else to see him."

It's been such a strength to me to understand that no matter what you're going through, and I mean my case was really extreme but there are people out there that are going through something that's almost as big for you. And what I want to say is this, Jesus is more than enough. No matter what you're going through, Jesus is more than enough. I guess that was the biggest lesson to me, James.

James: Let me just say to those of you who are watching, he really is. I just wish you could understand how much he looks in. Peter was a tobacco farmer, race car driver. Ann came out of kind of what you would call an upper end community, family in a nation divided by apartheid and terrible division -- and God saved them beautifully. And God gave them a love for people that they basically had been taught we don't love, and gave them a love for people all over Africa. Betty and I caught it. It caught us. Ann, because it's caught so many of you, millions have been saved, their lives have been saved, their future and eternity. And God looked in on them and God was with Peter there and God was with me as a boy without a home, without a father. He looked down and picked me up and said, "I pick you." When I didn't get picked to play on a team, nobody knew me, I moved too much -- just a little poor kid. But he said, "I pick you."

Listen. He is looking in on you right now. And he says, "I want to be with you more than you know, closer than you could ever imagine. I want to be the best friend you'll ever have." God is saying, "I'll be the father everyone needs and longs for." He wants that for you.

So whatever you're going through or your family, would you say, "Okay, Lord, I turn it over to you. Come into my life. Come into my situation. Come into my world and make me different." Just ask him, "Heal my heart, my hurt, my home relationships." And then grant him the time. Remember Peter was in a coma 12 days. This was like a two month battle for life and a future. But Jesus was with him. So just ask him to be with you right now. And he will be.

Do you want someone to pray with you? The number's there. It's a prayer line and it's paid for by love. We have a lot of people call us and say, "I couldn't pay for the long distance call." Well, love did. So you just want somebody to pray with you, don't you hesitate to call because Jesus is the miracle worker. He is the miracle of the ages.

Would all of you like to just say thank you, Peter and Ann for your mission work? Thank you, God! Thank you, God!

Peter, Sheila Walsh is with *LIFE Outreach* now. She is on her way to Angola here soon to be with you and the mission team, and to go and see the great work of our great God. And Sheila, it won't be nice hotels. You'll have better places to stay than where Betty and I have stayed, I promise you. And you won't have everybody shooting each other out in the street while you're trying to sleep.

Peter, we've seen miracles and you know what you first showed me that I did not know if our viewers would even respond to, you showed me children starving, you showed me a broken heart. We came and you said because I said, "Maybe we'll stay here and help you." You said, "No, go back and get us help so we can stay here." That's what you said.

I had no idea if they would help. So we're going to show Kyle Rogers will be coming with you. You're going to see him in a minute. Isn't he an awesome person, Kyle?

Ann: Amazing!

Peter: He is. I love him.

James: I want you to watch this. Viewers look. I want you to look and here's where we started with Peter and Ann. This is where we are right now. And boy, you talk about down the road, impacting, this has impacted the world what you're about to see. Listen to Kyle and just know love through you does indescribable things for the glory of God. I'm talking miracles. Watch!

On the mission field

Kyle: Mission feeding absolutely does save lives. It is undeniable. We've watched it and rescued children from death's door.

But I want to make sure that you understand another beautiful reality about mission feeding. See, starvation has a paralyzing effect on the developing brain of a child. And what makes it worse is that in areas like this, so often children aren't even allowed to go to school. They're instead expected to be at home with their parents to help work.

Now I want you to imagine that that was your reality; that your children were being robbed of their opportunity for education because you needed them at home for the survival of your family. But what if they had the opportunity for a meal every day and with it the opportunity for an education?

Well, because *LIFE Outreach* locates its mission feeding program in village schools, parents not only allow, they want them to be there because they realize that it may be the only meal that they get that day. With your help, we can stop the debilitating effects of starvation.

Teachers as they now do have to bang on doors to get kids to come to school but through mission feeding you will see kids arrive at school before the teachers. Their hunger for food will lead them to a hunger for learning. You will rescue more than their lives, you'll rescue their future and the future of Africa as a whole.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I love to see those children learning. Listen to me. When we started, the children were -- and by the way, it's still that way where there's drought and crisis. There's no system over there to assist. There is not where wealth and compassion can reach out and where people can share who care. It's simply not there. The resources are not there. They have to come from someone who has been blessed and able to reach out.

But when you reach out to them like we are right now, 400,000 children that we've located in various areas where many of them, tens of thousands are facing starvation because of drought and because of crop failure and nothing to eat. So we go in there and we stabilize. But once we stabilize then we help inspire and encourage and sometimes even build a school facility.

And then, this is what the missionaries learn firsthand that now even the World Food program has picked up. Thank God for that! School feeding keeps the kids coming to school but it's all

done by love and by the charitable giving of people who just care. So if we can feed at these schools, these kids who we've stabilized their situation, now they can go on and get an education.

For 25 years we've been working with Peter Pretorius and his wife and all of their team. Now we've seen many of these kids whose lives were saved by love through people like you, they're schoolteachers, some are college professors. Some are law enforcement officers. Some of them are leaders in the community or in the city or in the government. It has been total transformation where you reach out in love and you don't just keep people living on handouts, you teach them to learn and you inspire them to go, and then they become effective contributors in their own country. And we've seen the miracles; haven't we Betty?

Betty: It's awesome, James. I look at it as a double blessing. First and most important, we fill their tummies with the nutrition and the nourishment they need so they can grow up. And then we feed their minds and their hearts with the love of Jesus and give them knowledge.

What a blessing that is, James. I'm so excited about it!

James: And you don't have to wonder, do those workers and teachers talk about Jesus? Talk about God's love? You better believe it! That's what saved their lives. And you can see the miraculous; actually, it was the way our own country here in America was born. And we've forgotten our roots.

Look. It's love that never fails. Would you help us? A \$1400 gift will take care of a school feeding, an average of 140 children for the next months. \$5600 will cover that whole school for a year. Do you still remember that \$30 -- and surely you've heard this, if not, listen. For \$30, \$50, or \$100 we can feed three, five, or ten children for the next months.

Would you right now go -- please do this in love. Just let love carry you. Get your bankcard, use it like a check, go to LifeToday.org. Go online and use that card like a gift check, that's how you should always use it or call the phone number there and say, "I want to make a gift." If you can sponsor a school, do it. If you could help us feed three, five, or ten please do it. There's a level at which you can participate.

We've got a wonderful gift to send you. The teaching by some of the most anointed and gifted women in the world! -- Living Your Destiny. We want to bless you but you're going to be giving these children a future, a hope, a life. Thank you for going online or dialing that number. Thank you for giving life!

Begin video clip

Announcer: In remote and impoverished areas of Africa, families are suffering, facing death by starvation and those hit the hardest are the children. Life's mission feeding program is there ready to feed and care for these children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan.

With all of our previous reserves gone and Southern Africa facing its worst drought and food shortage in years, we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children counting on us.

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. Please also consider a special gift of \$1400 to help sponsor a school and help feed 140 children for three full months.

With your gift of any amount we'll send you the brand new audio series, Living Your Destiny. Hear five outstanding Bible teachers and women of faith share how to live the life God destined for you. With your gift of \$100 or more you'll also receive The Longing in Me by Sheila Walsh, and Unashamed by Christine Caine. And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more, be sure to request "Majesty," our 2016 commemorative bronze sculpture.

Please call, write, or go online today and make your gift of life to help feed and care for hungry children.

End of clip**In the studio**

James: Betty and I say thank you so much. I know you're rejoicing that Peter Pretorius is here alive -- the miraculous power of God and prayer. And Ann, we love you!

We want to thank you for your help. Thank you for your prayers. I really encourage you to get Living Your Destiny. If you can make a gift of \$100 or more, ask for those books; and the bronze, the beautiful "Majesty," God's wonderful creative skill and genius. We want to be a blessing to you.

Also, remember check out stream.org. Make it your home page because we've got a lot to pray about in our nation. And the stream is going to be yielded to streaming wisdom and love and truth from the heart of God. I believe it can help heal our nation. So visit.

Join Betty and me in saying thanks to Peter and Ann. Glad you're here. They're going to be back. You're going to see them in the next program. Don't miss tomorrow. We're going to talk about what love does. Thank all of you.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In his new book, *The Stream*, James Robison charts a plan for spiritual revolution in America. *The Stream*, available now online and at retail bookstores.