

4/27/17

Week 18: Spring Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Julie Manning

James: Thank all of you who are here. Thank you for welcoming us into your home. I'm James Robison. Betty, we've got a book titled *My Heart*. It has a heart rhythm. Recently, Betty had a bad fall and we had the heart monitor on and every now and then it would do something a little different. Boy, I would call them in and say, "What is that?" And they were talking about when you have a concussion, which Betty got a concussion that sometimes things get irregular.

Our guest, Julie Manning has a situation with her heart that you might say is almost beyond merely irregular. And she never imagined it. She was pretty well aware of what goes on medically and then suddenly, something she became aware of that she had no idea about. It changed everything. And she's written a book, *My Heart* and she is talking about her physical heart but she is talking far beyond that, she is talking about our spiritual heart, our body, mind, and spirit -- mind, will, emotion -- the total being. What's going on there?

I think her story is remarkable. I think you're going to be inspired and lifted up and I think the book will be such a source of inspiration. Would you welcome Julie to *LIFE Today*?

Julie, glad to see you.

Julie: Thank you for having me!

James: We're glad you're here. Your story and the journey you've been on is so amazing that you had to put it in a book because there is just so much there. You called it *My Heart*; you've got the little heart rhythm design there on the cover. Tell us what happened for you to pick such a title and exactly how were you impacted and in what way?

Julie: Well, I had a Caesarean section to deliver my second son and while I was in the surgery, in the operating room, I looked over -- because I wasn't feeling very well, so I looked over at that cardiac monitor, what Miss Betty was attached to, and I looked over and my heart rhythm was in a very serious heart rhythm, one for which that if it didn't spontaneously come out of they might need to start C.P.R. on me.

James: How did you know that? How did you recognize that?

Julie: Well, I had spent the previous seven years working in a cardiac I.C.U. as a nurse. It was second nature to just take a look at the vital signs and everything that was going on when I wasn't feeling well.

James: So you had seen it in critical situations that alarmed, never expecting you were going to see it right here when you are giving birth to your second child and you knew it was trouble.

Julie: I did know it was trouble. I did. But thankfully, Hunter was safely delivered and they did some cardiac testing that day and everything looked normal. So we got to go home after a couple of days in the hospital and learn what it was like to become a family of four.

The cardiologist at the time of Hunter's birth said, "Let me just see you in six weeks just to make sure everything was okay."

So John and I went to that appointment and found out that day that my heart was failing. So out of the blue my heart muscle just wasn't squeezing well at all.

James: Could you feel it physically too?

Julie: Not really. Not at that time. I had a couple of systems, shortness of breath, some dizziness, but all those things I kind of chalked up to well, I was out of shape because I was pregnant.

Betty: Did you think this is something that just developed recently or something that was happening growing up?

Julie: They believe that the heart failure had just somewhat developed.

James: A recent development, and it was manifested when you saw it.

So now give us a little bit of the journey. What happened and where did it take you?

Julie: Well, when you are an overachiever like myself, and a caretaker, working as an I.C.U. nurse staring at two little boys who one was six weeks old, one was 20 months old at the time, this just really took the wind out of me and knocked me off my feet. Here I was the caretaker and now I was going to have to rely on someone else to take care of me.

Through the process of being diagnosed with the heart failure I was also found to be at risk for a sudden cardiac death. So they had to put a defibrillator in my chest as well in that same time

frame. I remember coming out of a procedure and waking up with burn marks on my chest; and that was the day it really hit me, no, my life is a brief second. It is true what scripture says, life is brief this side of heaven. In fact, we weren't just made for this world, we were made for our eternal home.

So it was quite the journey. I went through a real dark season of depression and sadness and darkness because I lived believing the "what ifs." What if I collapse in front of my two boys? Are they old enough to dial 911? What if this is the last time I kiss my husband good-bye when he goes off to work?

So I spent many months just in this dark place of not trusting God, believing he existed, believing that he is a good father but at the same time going, I don't like this and I feel very out of control and I feel like I'm in a dark place and I don't really want to open up my Bible. So it was a really dark season during those first initial months.

James: So where did you end up as far as the journey because it's inspired you to write a book. Now I think they probably told you you couldn't have another child; would likely cost you your life for sure. What did you do in relationship to family because I think you had wanted more children?

Julie: I will say before I talk about that, I want to say that God pursued me in the darkness to pull me out into the light. It wasn't me pursuing after him, it was him pursuing after me in the midst of our suffering. So the Lord really used our local church body, our community. When I didn't want to open up the Bible on my nightstand they were sending me scriptures in my email. They were writing me notes of how they were praying. And God's word was pursuing after me in the midst of the darkness when I didn't want to pursue after God's word.

So the more God's word pursues after us, and the more we start to believe God's word is truth and that truth replaces our thoughts of the bad "what ifs," the darkness lifted and I came into the light.

James: So important for Christians to sow seeds, meaningful seeds, and the word of God is meaningful seed. So what they were doing with their prayers, they were actually sowing the word and it was taking root; correct? So we need to emphasize and I'm sure you do very thoroughly in the book, the importance of sowing those seeds continually and praying for people so already it's taken root while you're going through the process. All right, what happened?

Julie: Well, the Lord started to use some medications and started helping to restore some of my heart function; not all of it, but at least to a point where I wouldn't need a heart transplant so we're very thankful for that.

But spiritually, he got me to this place of just trusting him with my life, knowing that he has numbered my days from the beginning of time -- just like he's numbered your days. My life is no different than anyone else's. God has put us on this earth for an ordained amount of time and we're supposed to live in this time, in this place of vulnerability and with intentionality and with urgency for the gospel.

So as I was coming out of this season of darkness and believing God's truth over my life, there was still that yearning to grow our family. As a mommy, and I just love -- love my little boys. I became sad when that time would have come around for us to try to start having more children biologically. And the Lord said, "You know what? Hold off. I have a better plan than you could have thought it out." And the Lord really blessed us through the adoption of our baby boy Joshua.

James: So how did that come about?

Julie: So we've got three little boys now and they're loud and smelly.

[Laughter]

But they're fun.

James: How old are they all?

Betty: The third one was a real miracle too, wasn't it coming into this world?

Julie: He was a real miracle baby. When you have been told that you're at risk to die suddenly, not very many adoption agencies were excited to take us on as a family -- I'll just put it that way. But through the sharing of our story by a friend, there was this sweet woman in Houston, Texas who's a God-fearing woman and she called us and said, "Julie, I just have this sense from the Holy Spirit that I'm supposed to put a baby in your family." In a miraculous way the Lord opened up this sweet adoption counselor to find a baby boy to bring into our household.

James: And we had a very similar thing happen for us when Betty couldn't have another child, we were told, most certainly and in travail and prayer, Betty birthed our adopted son, Randy and then three years later, we had a miracle baby and she lived as a miracle.

Now you went because your heart is very tender and you're very sensitive, you went to Haiti to assist and something happened over there that made a very profound impact on you. Tell us about that.

Julie: I did. There was an earthquake in Haiti. Obviously, people are going to remember that. I just have this instinct like if something happens I just have to go help. And I had the news on that one afternoon and I saw the earthquake happen and John comes home from work and I'm like, "John, I'm getting on the next airplane out and we're going to go help in Haiti."

And he's like, "Can you just calm down here for a second? Because you know your heart's not well and we've got two boys here and what am I going to do without you for a week? And will you ever come home?"

[Laughter]

So I didn't go immediately, I went about six weeks after the earthquake happened. I had the real blessing of serving the people of Haiti down in some hospital wards with people that were still recovering.

But while we were down there some of the students, teenaged students from the orphanage would come and help translate for us in the afternoons after school. I developed this really sweet friendship with this little boy, I say little boy, this preteen boy named John Mark at the time. He loved Jesus. And one afternoon I said, "John Mark, tell me your story."

He goes, "Well, Miss Julie," he goes, "my dad left my mom and my mom raised me and she did everything she could do to help raise me but then my mama got sick. And when I was a young boy she died and God brought me to this orphanage. And this is where I've spent most of my life."

He was old enough to remember his mom. I don't know how old he was when his mommy passed but he had memories of his mama. So I just the whole week we would just banter back and forth. We were teaching him slang language. We were having a good old time with John Mark.

Well, one afternoon he comes in after school and he's got his earbuds in his ears and he is just singing praise music out loud; and it is a squeaky voice because he is like 12 years old, 13 years old and he's got the voice changes. I just sat and watched him walk in and I just got overwhelmed with this sensation because I was believing a lot of lies. I was believing a lot of lies at the time, though still trying to cling to God's word. It overcome me and I felt as if the Lord was saying, "Hey Julie, you see that teen boy over there? He loves me. And you know what? Julie, I don't need you around for me to cause your boys to love me and worship me."

Because that's one of my fears, is that I'll go and my kids won't know who I am or I will not get

to see them come to saving faith. And I just love them so much and as a mommy you just want to watch your kids grow up. But that moment was very -- a very big moment of surrender for me trusting my boys to the hand of God who loves them more than I could ever love them.

James: Boy! And it gave you a flood of peace.

Julie: Yes, absolutely.

James: Your kids are in good hands. I think it is so important for people to realize that we are important in the life of our children but boy, when we put them in the hands of God and we put our lives -- this is one of the things I'm trying to get all our viewers to realize that if we will give God the soft clay -- your heart's so tender, I can tell. You're a sweetheart. You might be writing about heart, but you're a sweetheart, you're a tender heart, you're a caring heart and God is just pouring himself all over you.

And all of our viewers will join just like pastors and others we talk to as we visited over a meal, we're praying for you to have healing and you know you are too. But you're trusting him totally and he is so real to you.

Julie: He is real.

James: The whole journey has made him even bigger and greater than ever; right?

Julie: He's better! He's better than anything this life can offer.

James: Absolutely! Absolutely! We want everyone to know him.

You know what? He didn't just save us to get us to heaven, he wanted to put heaven in us so people could see his glory and see who he is and be drawn to him and be changed the way you're being changed. This little kid that didn't have any parents but he had a life and his life, this kid without a mom and dad, with that father influencing his life, impacted your life.

Julie: It did. And God used the suffering of John Mark's life for good not only in his life, for good in my life.

James: In how he handled it. Well, this is what the book is about. You want to help people know how to have the heart of God and the heart he wants us to have shaped in us; right?

Julie: I do.

James: Do you appreciate this wonderful testimony and this sweetheart of a mom? *My Heart*, it's in the bookstores. Every beat surrendered to our unchanging God.

Father, thank you for Julie. Bless people with this story. And to you be the glory; in Jesus' name.

Julie, our viewers are remarkable. They are cheerful givers. You know what they give?

Julie: What do they give?

James: Our viewers give life! They give love and they give life all over the world to people who just need water or food of all things. I pray that when Betty and I are sitting here talking to you that you'll understand how much we love you, how much God loves you, and the joy -- the joy of the Lord is our strength. And it gives the Lord joy when you release his love to people, you freely release his grace, his love, his compassion.

And our mission outreaches are as clear an expression of the love of God, I think as there is anywhere in the world. And most people think that. And it is changing lives, saving lives by the thousands, the millions actually and winning people to Christ because when they see the love of God they're captivated by it. And you're the ones that enable the missionaries to not only have a heart full of love but to have the wherewithal to meet needs that are so critical.

I want you to watch but I want you to watch very prayerfully and just say, "God, what can I do about what I see that is of eternal significance?" Watch it very carefully and prayerfully.

On the mission field

Announcer: Life is precious.

It's also fragile.

The early years of a child's life are a crucial stage of development. Their muscles are forming, their brains are developing, and their tiny bones are growing and fusing together. Malnutrition and the lack of food are a serious threat to this development and children often lose their lives to this silent killer.

Our teams have identified areas of critical need in South Sudan and Angola. Through no fault of their own, children in these areas were born into poverty, famine, and war. They have no safety net and they desperately need our help more than ever. While this situation is grim it is not hopeless.

Mission Feeding's goal is to provide children like these with a daily bowl of food. It's a proven solution. It's an answer to these mothers' prayers and it's yours to give.

End of clip

In the studio

James: When I saw the need 25 years ago, up close and personal, and I saw the love of the missionaries who brought their little children with them and moved into what we would consider the belly of hell, the pit of hell and they went there with so much love but they needed help. It is like when the lead missionary heard me say, "Well, Betty and I could stay here and help."

And the missionary said very forcefully, "Please don't stay here! Please go back home and get help so we can stay here and not be empty handed. Please go back and help us."

Betty, when we came back I didn't have any idea if people would help. I knew if you had a mission conference at the church or you had a prayer meeting at the church, that's the thing the fewest people attended -- hardly any ever went. So when we came back and asked you if you would help, Betty and I signed on to help. And I mean we started right away. And the ministry agreed and we sold some assets to just get some money to start because we didn't know if you would help. But God's love began to flow through the viewers of *LIFE Today*.

Let me just talk to you as personally as I can. We began to see the love of God flow freely through viewers who watch the program. And they began to tell us, "When you show us a legitimate need and effective way to meet it, we rejoice."

And we found people all over the world saying, "Show us an opportunity to be the miracle in someone's life in that situation; to be the strength to missionaries full of the love of God and we'll do it." And you've done it! And to God be the glory.

Then you helped us drill water wells, helped us rescue people from the sexual trafficking and you helped us provide life centers, homes, orphan ages for children all over the world. You've been amazing! Right now in South Sudan and it's been in the news continually and it is critical and they're starving, the children are dying. Many of them are being maimed and attacked because they're hated.

But the answer is the love of God. I'm telling you, those people are so receptive. In Angola and other parts of Africa we've got 400,000 children right now that we have located that are in desperate need of our help. If you would simply reach out today and say, "I'm going to help you

feed those children." For \$30, \$50, or \$100 we can feed three, five or ten children for the next months. And I'll always say if there is any way you can give \$100 and help us feed ten, please do it -- please! If you can give \$1,000 and help us feed 100, that would be wonderful! Do it!

We're asking many of you when we get things stabilized in an area we start feeding at schools; so we feed their little minds -- and \$1400 will feed a whole school. It's amazing. There is a level at which you can help. We have some gifts we want to send you to build your life spiritually, your devotional life, to bless you and inspire you but we're asking you right now to reach out and touch someone with love. Would you go and get your bankcard? Would you actually move to do it and say I'm going to be the miracle in those children's lives? Would you get your bankcard, go online, make the gift God puts on your heart, please. Or call the number and make the gift. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but please call us and tell us what you're sending. We need to notify the missionaries, "You're going to have the resources. You planted your life there; you're not going to be there empty-handed."

Please right now, would you do it? Thank you for making that move. Thank you for becoming someone's miracle.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In impoverished and even now famine-stricken areas of Africa, children are suffering. The need is great and without food they face death by starvation.

LIFE's Mission Feeding program is ready. With your support, we're able to feed and care for children in famine areas of Sudan, as well as Angola and Mozambique. With all of our previous reserves gone and Mission Feeding facing the worst drought and food shortage in years, we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children counting on us.

Your lifesaving 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 My Daily Word Devotional. This boxed set of four seasonal devotionals will help you read, reflect, and renew yourself through God's word with space to journal your thoughts and reflect each day.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you'll also receive Kari Jobe's newest music project, *The Garden*, along with the story behind *The Garden* companion DVD.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more, please be sure to request "Determined Eagle," our 2017 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

On the mission field

James: Betty, you look at this long line and boy, it goes all the way back to the big four-wheel-drive truck. You started praying years ago that God would make the line to feed the children longer than the line to be fed. I think God's answered your prayer.

Betty: He has, James. At the same time, the line gets longer so we need to help our line to reach them, continue to grow and you to reach out more because I know you're blessed as you see these children being fed here. Let's don't let it stop. Let's keep soup in the barrel so they can come and line up and get fed.

End of clip

In the studio

James: We're so excited to send you the incredible *Daily Word Devotional*, seasonal! They're by season, it's just great. It's going to put you in the word every day.

And then Kari Jobe, she grew up with us. She was a little girl about ten years old and danced at Robin's wedding when our daughter got married, the one who is in heaven with the Lord right now. Well, Kari was one of our friends. Her dad worked with our ministry for many years and she's prepared a beautiful CD. It's out now. And *The Garden*, it's a DVD telling how it all came to pass. It's beautiful! One of the most beautiful things I've ever seen. We're sending that to say thanks.

The "Determined Eagle," if you can help us feed kids in a school, please do it. You're going to love this beautiful bronze. If you'd like to have Julie's book, *My Heart*, my goodness, what an inspiration! And you just help us give some kids food, we'd be glad to send it to you; you just ask for it.

Would you join Betty and me saying thanks to Julie for blessing us? Thank you.

Julie: Thank you for having me!

James: You're a sweetheart. We just pray God blessings to you continually.

Thank all of you! Thanks for watching *LIFE Today* and thanks for sharing life every day!