

7/11/17
Week 29: WFL
James and Betty Robison
Randy and Mary Travis #2

James: Wow! Betty, I'm excited about today. Who is our guest today?

Betty: Randy Travis and his wife Mary.

James: We've got a miracle that's happening. I don't know how many of you might have seen Randy last year. They gave him -- he's been given tons of awards. He's won a bunch of them! But when you see a bunch of entertainers -- and by the way, I've got to say the country and western crowd seems to be a little bit more stable than a lot of the musicians, to be honest with you.

[Laughter]

I can even understand something they say most of the time. They have some pretty strange stories. I heard one country song recently. The guy said, "My best friend ran off with my wife and I sure do miss him."

[Laughter]

So you never know exactly what the country guys are going to sing. But at least you can understand them.

But all those entertainers were so happy to see Randy who had been through this incredible after effect of a heart condition and then a stroke. They were with us yesterday; they're back today. How about we welcome Mary and Randy Travis back to *LIFE Today*?

[Applause]

Did you enjoy yesterday, Mary?

Mary: Oh yes! I did.

James: Did you enjoy it?

Randy: Yeah!

James: And it's hard to believe you did sing "Amazing Grace" for us. Do you wish you could kind of belt out all four verses real quick?

Randy: Yeah.

James: Do you think maybe you're going to get to?

Randy: Yeah.

James: We're trusting for that; aren't we?

Randy: Yep.

James: And you want to be able to play the guitar; you want to be totally comfortable Randy, dressed up in Jesus; right?

Randy: Yep.

James: We want to share something. You know, Mary, his mom, I understand really prayed.

Mary: She was a sweet lady. She was the backbone of the family.

James: You've got to think a lot of the seeds that she's sown is going to keep bearing fruit. The song, "When Mama Prayed" you did that with us a long time ago. You and me were kids back then.

[Laughter]

Would you like to hear that song by Randy? Let's listen to "When Mama Prayed." Listen to it.

Begin video clip

[Randy Travis sings "When Mama Prayed"]

Daddy never went to church on Sunday
He said, "That's one thing I'll never do"
Mama never gave up, she said, "Some Day
He'll be sitting here beside me and you"

I can still here Mama softly talking
Her tears falling on her folded hands
So that Easter Sunday Daddy walked in
That's when I began to understand

When Mama prayed, good things happen
When Mama prayed, lives were changed
Not much more than five foot tall
But mountains big and small crumbled all away
When Mama prayed

Seventeen and wild, I hit the bottle
Doing anything I dang well pleased
Burning down life's highway at full throttle
While Mama burned the candle on her knees

Then one night I came home half sober
I saw Mama kneeling in the den
As I listened, she and Jesus talked it over
And I knew my restless days were 'bout to end

'Cause when Mama prayed good things happen
When Mama prayed lives were changed
Not much more than five foot tall
But mountains big and small crumbled all away
When Mama prayed

It isn't like every one of them got answered
But the times they weren't it seems to me were rare
You almost felt sorry for the devil
'Cause heaven knows he didn't have a prayer
When Mama prayed

Not much more than five foot tall
But mountains big and small crumbled all away
When Mama prayed
Crumbled all away when Mama prayed

[Applause]

End of clip

In the studio

James: I want to say thanks to all the mothers that did pray. Thank all your moms and grandmothers. Let's pray for our nation.

Mary and Randy, I know that song means a lot to you because you know mama prayed. And Mary, he wouldn't be sitting here, wouldn't be alive and you wouldn't be able to hold up if people hadn't prayed. What do you think will happen if everybody would really get serious about praying for our nation and for the church and for a spirit of love and unity to prevail in every house, from the White House to the poor houses and the church houses -- and we really pray -- what do you think we could see in our country?

Mary: A total reformation. To me, it is sad that people are so busy finding fault and being so divisive when it would be such a blessing to just get down on our knees. Sometimes that's what it takes is getting down on our knees. I feel like that's where our nation is now is that we've gotten, well, you hear God will take you to your knees before you can see the light and he'll lift us back up.

President Trump, I think, I wish people would pray for him instead of prey on him. Give him a chance. He is a wonderful father or he wouldn't have the family that he has. He's a wonderful leader. He sacrificed so much to become our president because of the love he has for our nation. I think people overlook that. He didn't have to do what he did. He wasn't a politician at heart. So there was a great sacrifice there. We can look back and see what people that sacrificed for their countries and the love of their families, what that did for us.

James: Do you appreciate what she just said about praying for our leaders, for all of them and not prey on them and try to find fault?

Randy, do you believe that mama's prayers made a real positive impact on you?

Randy: Yes.

James: Do you believe that mama's prayers and the prayers of a lot of people are the reason you are alive right now with what you've been through? And you think maybe you're going to go farther in this healing journey; right? And we're going to pray for God to heal this nation.

Mary: We talk about Randy's beautiful songs and the catalog of music that he has. The way we see it now is maybe God didn't answer all of our prayers when we were in the hospital, give

him full voice, give him reading abilities, give him his -- but sometimes unanswered prayers give us a platform to reach out even farther. The way we look at it now is we have a new song to sing.

Unfortunately, he has to do it with me because I don't sing. So he is going to have to carry me on this one. I'm like you. You're going to have to hear me in heaven. But he has a new song to sing and he has a different direction to go that no one of his stature has ever gone. So he can speak volumes to so many that otherwise wouldn't be heard; like we're talking about this platform of this cardiomyopathy. If I had had it, it wouldn't matter.

James: Let me just tell you, that's their website where they can inform people and really save a lot of lives. So you go to that website and I pray you support them. Excuse me, go ahead.

Mary: It's just that God knows that he had a name that was known worldwide. This is where we get the attention of people that can help make changes. It is like they say when bad things happen to the right person then change happens.

James: You really experienced what a lot of people don't know. By the way, we're in 30 days of prayer. We've called all of our viewers, people, let's pray focused prayers. When you focus your prayer it is like taking the power of the Colorado River and force it through a turbine and it can create enough energy to light up a desert. That's what we're focusing: Praying for our leaders, praying for our nation, praying for people all over the world, praying for the wisdom and the creative genius that God's put in people who know how to create and do things to really begin to focus on meeting needs and touching people. And it will be a miracle transformation.

The miracle that occurred for you all, Mike Hayes is here and he is Covenant Church pastor. I've admired him and we've been friends for a long time. Something happened when something happened to Randy, the same thing, very significant. Tell us about it, pastor.

Mike: It's great to be here with you tonight, James and Betty and great to see Randy and Mary. I love you guys and it is ironic that we're here on the same night.

Back then when this happened to Randy, James, ironically, our youth pastor, Kevin and his wife Natalie, Natalie had -- hers started with a stroke. She was the picture of health, worked out, professional cheerleader in her past. Beautiful girl. She went to the same hospital, same wing, same doctors, same issues when Randy was going through his ordeal as Natalie. So a lot of us were up there praying with her, being with her, standing with Kevin.

I just talked to Kevin before we came on the air tonight and told him what we were doing and why because Natalie didn't win her battle. She is in heaven. And Randy came out of the hospital.

The reason I think this is fitting tonight, James is because I'm going to agree with you, that Randy, God has a destiny and a purpose for your life because listen, until God's finished with us, nothing can take us out. So Natalie is good. She is in heaven. She finished her race but you didn't and God has a further purpose for you. I'm going to stand right in there with you and you are going to play that guitar again and you are going to sing just like you sang and you're going to be a testimony to the world of what Jesus can do.

[Applause]

James: And we're going to be praying that not only will the whole church sing the praises of God but the nation will begin to sing about his truth marching on and prevailing because it does. I've really prayed that we could begin saying openly, our leaders, not just God bless America but may America bless God by sharing the blessings of God all over the world. That's what God looks for in his family.

Are you excited about what you see, Mary when you've walked this very heavy road and there's still a load but it is lighter. Are you excited about what you believe God is going to do?

Randy: Yeah.

[Laughter]

James: He's saying he is.

Mary: Absolutely!

James: You are excited; right, Mary?

Mary: When we look back where we were four years ago when it happened, and to now, it is a huge improvement. I know from people that haven't been with us day in and day out, they don't see that and they see him before and the after but that walk there in-between, it's been rocky but it's been a beautiful walk. The landscape is different on this road that we've taken. So God is good.

James: Randy, is there something in your heart that you would just like everybody to hear that you think you might could say, a sentence or a word that you want to ask us to pray about or is something on your heart that you could express?

Randy: I don't know! Thank you. I love you.

James: You want to thank all of the people that prayed for both of you.

Randy: Thank you!

James: Still holding on for more miracles. And we want everybody watching us to become a miracle of God's grace; don't we?

Are you going to keep praying for Randy? Do you appreciate he and Mary being here to share? Pastor Mike Hayes, thank you. 30 days of prayer, we've been calling you to.

You helped us starting a long time ago, Randy. We tried to feed the hungry, we've saved maybe 11 million children's lives, the African governments have told us. "We" meaning you. We've drilled 5,000 water wells but you gave your time to go and help us. And you gave your time to come and sing to many of our friends who say, "We care about the helpless." You inspired them. You're one of the most popular guests that we've ever had.

So you join, and Mary, you all want the miracle to happen with clean water. I think of all the things we do, as a matter of fact, Betty, the rest of our life we're going to be putting emphasis on sharing water for life with everybody in the world. There is nearly a billion people have no access to clean water and sharing the water of life with all the people in the world. We're going to do it together. What we're doing right now that you've helped, we're in the process and we can only do it with your help of drilling 400 more wells. We targeted 188 areas that were critical early in the year and you've helped, but now we want to complete the 400.

We need a miracle outpouring of support. I want you to watch but as you watch and see an opportunity not only to see a miracle but to be a miracle. You are actually the source and you are the venue, the vehicle, the channel through which God flows the miracle I'm talking about. You really are. Watch!

On the mission field

Open Captions:

>> Over 700 million people worldwide live with unsafe water.

James: This is a journey that we go on because we want to show you reality, we want to show you how people live. We're supposed to go to a water source. I am -- look at this! I'm so hot right now and thirsty but look at this water! Then there's another little hole right there just beyond, a little bit larger but it's filthy!

This is where people come to get water. It just makes me want to lay my head down and just start

crying because it is all people have.

Open Captions:

>> Yes, it is terrible seeing a child that comes in with diarrhea, dehydrated and see them that way. Sometimes we can't do anything.

Announcer: This story could be repeated from thousands of locations around the world: Families suffering with diarrhea and dehydration. Tragically, for young children whose immune systems cannot ward off the effects of illnesses caused by diseased water, it can lead to an early grave.

Open Captions:

>> The only water that we have to drink is really bad. We have no choice but to drink this water every day. This is how my six-year-old daughter died from diarrhea.

Announcer: There is a simple solution that would put an end to the physical and emotional hardships families are having to endure. It can be summed up in the words of the Psalmist, "Like cold water to a thirsty soul so is the good news from a far country."

James: With your help we can provide little children like this with fresh clean water. It's really pretty simple but it takes all of us doing our part, joining together, to give not only a cup of water as Jesus said but a well of water.

I pray you'll make that life-giving call today and children and their families in so many parts of the world will receive a chance at life because of the love of God shared through you.

End of clip

In the studio

James: And that is exactly our prayer. Betty, to me those are very touching scenes when you see the pain that comes. But when you switch over and look at the joy that comes from an expression of love, that really in so many ways is simple. For the cost of a nice meal with the family where we can give ten people water the rest of their life, \$48; \$144, sometimes you have a big gathering and you eat, we can give 30 people water the rest of their life. The wells cost \$4800.

I'm glad we've been able to give wells. Every time we're able to give a well. We asked God to let us do that. I think we've got many viewers who want to do that -- who want to come in and help.

Betty: I do too. I know you do. As we all watch those mothers dip down in that water and bring up that cup, every time they dip down they're bringing up death -- possible death to their children. Let's make a difference. Let's let them dip down into fresh clean water and then put a smile on their face because they know they're doing something that's going to help their child, that's going to save their life possibly.

So please, join with us and let's drill the water wells and make some mamas really happy and some children to be able to dance around in the water as we've seen them do. It's a celebration of life!

James: I'm watching you over here on the monitor and I see those beautiful dimples and that smile, and I just think, boy, I'm just so blessed.

But listen to me. Did you not see those little kids smiling? We can just show you so many faces smiling. And we can show you a grandmother, I don't think she still has a tooth left in her head and she is so happy. They've got water! It's like a miracle! And that's exactly what it is. It is a miracle of love that provides life.

Isn't that what Jesus did? Isn't that what God did? He so loved us he gave? He gave his son, not just to die but to be raised to live in us and to give us life now and forever. You don't die to get eternal life, die and get eternal life; we receive eternal life in Christ and we live it here and for eternity but we share it. That's what we're doing.

Would you right now go online, *LIFE Today*? Or would you dial that number that's a prayer line? But today, it's really and truly an answer to prayer line. I mean it is a life line. Would you call and say I'm going to drill a well. My company is going to drill a well. A friend of mine agreed to do it. My wife and I, together we're going to drill a well -- or we're going to give a portion of it and pray others join us.

Most of the support comes from people who give \$48 and that gives ten people water, the miracle they need -- \$144, 30! There is a level at which you can help us. And where we can't get in to drill a well, we now have a filter system where we can give three families the ability to filter water that will give them clean non-diseased contaminated water, three families for \$100. There is a level -- I'm telling you -- there is a place where you can step in.

Please! LifeToday.org or dial the number; go get your bankcard, use it like a miracle card. Use it like a check. If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail. We need to know. We've got 400 areas where they want to hear, "Waters on the way." A miracle! Water for life because of the water of life and we will be telling them about

him. Please do it now -- right now!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Every day children living in extreme poverty are forced to make a dreadful choice: Drink polluted water filled with deadly disease or perhaps die of thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision.

The good news is there is a solution. **Mission:** Water for Life is one of the most proven and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. Suffering can end because clean water changes everything!

With your gift today you can help drill 400 water wells in remote villages in 15 nations. A gift of \$48 will provide disease-free water for ten people, \$72 will provide for 15 people, and \$144 will help provide clean water straight from the ground for 30 people.

Please also consider an additional gift of \$100 to help provide three families with water filtration kits in emergency areas where our drilling rigs are unable to reach. As our thank you, we'll send you the books, *Words of Jesus* and *Words of Healing*. One contains only the words of Jesus and the other scriptures for healing in your body, mind, and soul. With your \$100 gift you can receive both hardbound and softbound editions of these scripture promise books.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people. Or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well and you may request our beautiful hand sculpted "Determined Eagle" bronze. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You know what I'm praying, Betty? We send this to anyone who will give a gift of \$1200 or more; that's 25% of the well, three people join you or people who give a well. This is a "Determined Eagle." Determined -- determined to soar on the turbulence of the times and the challenges of the day. Eagles seek turbulence to rise higher. They are designed to travel faster than they had the capability of creating the capacity to travel that fast. They're designed to be carried that fast, the same way we are. We're designed to be carried by the spirit of the living God. And when we are not we look like a fish out of water. They were born to live in the water, we were born to live in the spirit, determined to soar. You're going to like this bronze.

Would you join me and Betty in saying a big thanks to Mary and Randy Travis?

Mary: Thank you! Thank you so much!

James: And thanks to all of you that pray. There's their website, how they offset this terrible destructive disease. Thank all of you. Thank you for watching. Thanks for sharing water.

Begin video clip

>> I wish I could do more for *Life Outreach International*, but I'm saving for retirement.

Announcer: We have a plan that can help you do both. Contact *Life Planning Services* today.

End of clip