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Week 29: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Randy and Mary Travis

**James:** Oh boy! I'll tell you what. In some ways it is like a homecoming and a reunion. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today* and all of you.

Randy Travis, a miracle walking. He's here with us. Randy joined our outreaches more than 15 years ago and he began to try to help us win people to Christ to help us feed the hungry and give water to the thirsty. As a matter of fact, he came, Betty to our Christmas celebration where we really raise a tremendous amount of support to continue drilling water wells, and now we're 5,000 and we're doing that right now.

But his wife Mary who literally -- you talk about an angel. As a matter of fact, I'm going to cut a picture in right here where I went to the hospital and the man has had a stroke, we're going to need to tell you more about it in detail but I'm there with Randy. He has been hit so hard, this is in the early days of the struggle but he knew I was there. I'm looking at the picture myself and I'm happy because he was happy that I was there.

Mary, as I said, she was an angel sent by God to lift him up out of the pit of literally death and destruction and just love him with an unconditional love. They are a beautiful married couple, Mr. And Mrs. Travis. I mean this is good.

Would you welcome Randy and Mary Travis to *LIFE Today*?

**Mary:** Thank you so much!

**James:** Mary, I remember walking in that room and I can't tell you the joy to know that he not only recognized me but there seemed to be a sense of appreciation. It was more like maybe help and prayers coming. How important was prayer in this journey and in support of you. What did that mean to the two of you?

**Mary:** So at so many different times during this six months, five and a half months that we were in the hospital, that was all we had was prayer and just knowing that God was walking beside us. He was present with us. He was in the doctor's hands. He had their hands. But the power of prayer, the letters and the folks that reached out to us just to say we're praying, that was

the wind beneath our wings; that's all we had to rely on at the time because we weren't trying to make it day to day, we were try to go make it second to second.

They had taken a lot of the hope away from us at one point in time and said we just need to pull the plug on him because he has these hospital-borne bacteria now. He's very septic. They can't get on top of it. He had his chest tubes, his feeding tubes, his skull was stored in his stomach to keep that viable for whenever they would be able to place that again. He had three bouts of double pneumonia, he had had three tracheotomies, had been intubated six or seven times at this point, had art lines for medication to the heart, and at one time, I counted 38 I.V.'s stuck in him.

So by the time we had gotten to Tennessee they just didn't think he could make it through anymore. He was down to right at 100 pounds. But that's when -- and this is when you know that God is present because he is in a semicoma state. I went into his room after the doctors told me I needed to kind of let go. I asked Randy if he wanted to fight. And like I said, he was in this coma state but he squeezed my hand and this little tear fell down his cheek. And I said I know he is not ready to give up. The guy's got the heart of an angel and the soul of a warrior. So I went back and I did, I told the doctors, "God's got other plans for this man. We intend to be present when he needs us. So y'all need to give it everything you have. Let's keep moving forward."

**James:** Randy, look over here at me. Are you glad you fought?

**Randy:** Yep.

**James:** Did you have an angel sitting here?

**Randy:** Yeah!

**James:** Did those prayers lift you up.

**Randy:** Yeah. Yeah!

**James:** Were you glad when I walked in the room just to love you a little bit?

**Randy:** Yeah!

**James:** It meant a lot to you, too; didn't it, Mary?

**Mary:** Absolutely, it meant a lot to me. I needed that.

**James:** Betty, what do you think when you see him? You know you love them and you know what Randy means to us and how much he's loved us in what we do.

**Betty:** It is in times like this, and really serious times that we can feel the presence of God around us. I'm sure you look back and you say God really did carry you because you had to be exhausted at times. You probably stayed there with him most of the time.

**Mary:** Every day and every night, I didn't spend a night away from him. I wasn't about to.  
[Laughing]

**Betty:** Yeah! You come away saying --

**Mary:** I've waited too long for him. I wasn't going to leave him.

**Betty:** You look back and you think, God really was good; wasn't he? Because it is a miracle.

**Mary:** He was so good to us. Being in a hospital environment you learn so much. I know that y'all have fought staph infections that just feel like mountains you can't climb and the doctors don't know what to do. So you know that it is God's wisdom that comes down and takes over. And there are times in the hospital where they would come in and try to give him somebody else's medication. So you just -- there's a reason why you're there to love someone through something like this.

I know, James, you had asked me earlier, is there anything that you would like for people to know? All I want people to know so bad is just don't ever give up. God doesn't read medical records. The medical records are the human limitations on what we know, what our knowledge is but it doesn't even touch on the knowledge of God and what his plan is for us. He is not reading medical records.

I just want to tell people to fight for the one they love to be present, to take God's lead and help guide them through whatever. Then when things -- when we got out of the hospital after five and a half months, it was two and a half years of therapy every single day for four hours a day. They said he would never walk. They said he would be in and out of hospitals the rest of his life and bedridden. We weren't buying in. They were selling and we weren't buying. So God has a different plan.

**James:** I told him earlier, before we walked out here. We're going to hear him sing "Three Wooden Crosses" that he did here with us. But now think, by the grace of God, he is going to sing amazing grace to us.

I want you to tell our viewers because you've started a foundation. What is really happening to a lot of people, they can't diagnose this. They misdiagnose it. You will hear Mike Hayes, an incredible pastor tell a story of what happened at the same time -- just drives it home. We're going to do two programs on this. So you'll be back tomorrow, Mike Hayes will be here. He will comment on that, what happened, the significance and then also Mike will be talking a little later in the week with me. But what was the name? I know it is kind of hard to say. What did he have that they misdiagnosed?

**Mary:** Viral cardiomyopathy.

**James:** And it is easily misdiagnosed? And the misdiagnosis is what then allows it to take this real death grip; correct? Now you started a foundation to try to educate people, including the medical community so that you can save people's lives and they not be impacted like he has been physically. Tell me what the name of the foundation is and how will people go there?

**Mary:** It's Randy Travis Foundation -- [RandyTravisFoundation.org](http://RandyTravisFoundation.org). The mission is obviously, early diagnosis of viral cardiomyopathy. It is a virus that hits the heart and does its damage rather rapidly according to...

**James:** But you can set it off if you diagnose it properly. That's what you're trying to help educate. There is the website and to all of you, those of you here, if you could touch and when you hear Mike Hayes, at the exact same time, very important you hear it and that will be in the program tomorrow. But there is the website. And I want you to pray, God, can I help? Then help them! We don't try to protect our donors from helping people do what God wants done. So I hope you'll really be praying for them. We're just believing God for miracles. I want us to listen to you here, way back, and you're singing "Three Wooden Crosses." You liked that song; didn't you?

**Randy:** Yeah.

**James:** A lot of people like that song. I want us to -- would you like to hear Randy Travis when he sang "Three Wooden Crosses" right here? We're going to go there together. Let's all watch.

### **Begin video clip**

[Randy Travis singing Three Wooden Crosses]

A farmer and a teacher, a hooker and a preacher  
Riding on a midnight bus bound for Mexico  
One was headed for vacation, one for higher education

And two of them were searching for lost souls  
 That driver never ever saw the stop sign  
 And eighteen wheelers can't stop on a dime

There are three wooden crosses on the right side of the highway  
 Why there's not four of them, Heaven only knows  
 I guess it's not what you take  
 When you leave this world behind you  
 It's what you leave behind you when you go

That farmer left a harvest, a home and 80 acres  
 The faith and love for growing things in his young son's heart  
 And that teacher left her wisdom  
 In the minds of lots of children  
 Did her best to give 'em all a better start  
 That preacher whispered, "Can't you see the Promised Land?"  
 As he laid his blood-stained Bible in that hooker's hand

There are three wooden crosses on the right side of the highway  
 Why there's not four of them, Heaven only knows  
 I guess it's not what you take  
 When you leave this world behind you  
 It's what you leave behind you when you go

That's the story that our preacher told last Sunday  
 As he held that blood-stained Bible up  
 For all of us to see  
 He said: "Bless the farmer, and the teacher, and the preacher  
 "Who gave this Bible to my mamma  
 Who read it to me"

There are three wooden crosses on the right side of the highway  
 Why there's not four of them, now I guess you know  
 It's not what you take  
 When you leave this world behind you  
 It's what you leave behind you when you go

There are three wooden crosses  
 On the right side of the highway  
**End of clip**

**In the studio**

**James:** Oh man! You like that song; don't you?

**Randy:** Yeah!

**James:** You like that message?

**Randy:** Yep.

**James:** I love you, buddy -- and Mary. It's been my privilege to be lifting you up in prayer. You know it's all amazing grace our nation needs and it is amazing grace that's lifted you up and all of us. Could you sing the first verse of amazing grace for us? You think you can take a shot at that?

**Randy:**

[Singing]

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

[Applause]

**James:** Let me have that good old strong hand.

Father, I just want you to give to Randy back where he could use both his hands and his voice. I want to thank you for your amazing grace because it is not by works of righteousness, it is all your grace. I just thank you for Mary. I want you to just pour your love out all over them in grace. And we'd like to have Randy back where he can do the things you gifted him to do for your glory; in Jesus' name.

Are you glad to see Randy and Mary sitting here?

[Applause]

This is the grace of God. Mary, we want to talk to you again on the program tomorrow about

what's in your heart and what you want to see and just continue to thank people for prayer. If we can see this part of the miracle we can see God heal a broken nation, broken relationships, broken families. He's a miracle worker. Randy, you want to see that and you want to be a part of it. I believe God is going to give you more songs and I'm just going to be holding on for you to sing.

I know both of us are going to sing well in heaven. I can't sing well here and I haven't had a stroke, man. But when I sing it causes other people to have a stroke. It's just not healthy, Randy for me to sing. But in heaven, you're going to listen to me sing. I'm going to hang on there, brother, I'm singing now! And when you're there you can sing.

But I want you to be able to sing again now. I want all of you, I want you to have a song in your heart. I want you to have a message in your life. Tomorrow we're going to talk to them more about what does God want to show us through the things that we're walking through. And how can we actually really move together like the family of the perfect father?

Randy, one of the biggest blessings that we ever had and this is in the early days of when we started drilling those water wells. When you came at that first time to help us, they were only \$3600 but the cost of energy, other things, just all the things, it is \$4800 now. But you stepped in at the first to help us drill water because you say if a cup of water in Jesus' name, you wanted everybody to understand that. So we've drilled 5,000. By the way, you don't know this but I want to spend the rest of my life helping people all over this world share water for life and talk about the water of life that inspires us to want to give that cup of water.

So right now, I want both of you to know, we're still drilling those water wells and we're going to ask all of our viewers and those here in the audience to help us drill 400 more wells. We've had just under 200 that were so critical that had we not already moved in and started, people would have just died -- really, it is indescribable.

And we've got another neat thing. Where you can't get a drilling rig in, we've got a filter system that we can give three families -- this is so cool -- I mean \$4800 we ask God to raise people up but we can give people a filter, we can give three families clean filtered water for \$100 no matter where they live.

So I want you to watch this. You're going to be blessed, all of you. Just look in and watch and just say, "God, what do I do to be somebody's miracle?" Watch closely.

**On the mission field**

**Open captions:**

I looked and saw how much people were suffering on this earth.

I saw the tears of those who are suffering.

They don't have anyone to comfort them.

Ecclesiastes 4:1 NIRV

**Announcer:** Tears, we have all shed them but for millions of people around the world they're a daily reminder of hardship, pain, and loss. Sometimes the tears won't flow simply because of emotional exhaustion; other times they won't stop because the pain is overwhelming. It is especially true for those who have lost a child or a loved simply because they had no access to clean drinking water.

In Madagascar, this man Fernando lost his wife, two children, and a brother all to waterborne disease and now he must watch his surviving niece drink from the same source of contaminated water.

**Jeanne:** I just pray Lord that you would comfort him right now. And Lord, and just having to tell this story again, it is just so sad. But I ask you to bless him for sharing it with us so that we can help so many people.

**Announcer:** Yes, there is a way to stop tears of heartache like these before they ever fall.

[Upbeat music]

**Announcer:** Through mission water for *LIFE* we can restore hope to those in need around the world. And by our giving, we can comfort the brokenhearted and replace their tears with joy.

[Cheers and laughter]

**End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**James:** Oh boy! I tell you my heart is full of so much emotion, honey. I just had a flashback, when I was looking at those mothers in Lucent, and I remembered when we had been with our daughter Robin in the battle with cancer. And they said that she was not going home from the

hospital. All the family said, "Yes, she is. She is going home."

And Betty said, "We're going to fly back home and I'm going to get all my belongings and I'm going to stay with her. We don't need hospice, I'm going to be there."

And we flew home and then we got the call from Kenny and he said, "She is gone."

There's no way to tell you. We couldn't stand without holding each other up. But here's what I want you to understand. I know this. If there had been anybody watching, anybody here or anybody watching on television that could have walked in that room and said to our daughter Robin, and to us, "Here! Here is all you need." You would have done it.

And, Betty, our viewers, our audience here, people all over the world can go to those precious people and put the joy that they saw at the end with the water well, they can walk in and say, "We have the answer. Here it is."

**Betty:** And we personally know what those tears of pain feel like because we've lost a precious child just as this man had lost his wife and children and all those that he loved; his tears of pain. But we want to be part of turning those tears of pain into tears of joy. And as you can see, as the children, when we're able to drill a well, the children get around and the water pumps up and they're so excited. You'd think it was Christmastime. But they're so thrilled and the smiles on the mothers' faces because they know that now their child may have a chance to live and not die.

So please join with us. We can drill these wells. We can fill the need of these children and these families that are dying because of diseased water. Please help us.

**James:** You are the miracle that people cry out for. You really are. It's not wishful thinking, you really are the miracle. And you can come in and say, "Here's life. We want to give you water for life because of the water of life."

So here's what I'm asking you to do, and I really believe you're going to do it: \$100 will give three families a filter system that won't drill one of the wells but where we can't get the drilling rigs in because of the terrain, we've got something for them now.

Now please listen to me because I really believe this will happen. If you can drill a well, they're \$4800. I believe right now you're going to go online or you're going to call, take your bankcard, and say, "Here's a check. I'm using my bankcard like a check" or "I'm going to put it in the mail." If you put it in the mail make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us, "I'm mailing a well, \$4800." If you can give part of a well, \$1200, \$2400 and then pray someone joins you with another \$2400 or three with another \$1200.

Most of the support comes from people who give \$48 and that gives ten people water the miracle they need. \$144, as an example, gives 30 people basically water the rest of their life. I'm believing every one of you watching, every one of you are going to right now, with God's direction, say, "Here's my gift of love. Here's my part in the miracle people are longing for." Get your bankcard, go online, or dial the number. Be determined to get through and make the gift God puts on your heart, please. If you get a busy, because people could be calling for prayer because this has been a very high impact program and we're going to pray with them -- be determined and get through and make the gift God put on your heart. Thank you for doing it.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you to help you grow in the grace of knowledge of our Lord and in his word and in his truth. Thank you so much for giving the greatest gift, the gift of life and the love of God.

### **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:** I tell you what, God was with us today. I really want to say good-bye to Randy and Mary in a minute but I want you to know *The Words of Jesus*, that's all this is -- just his words. This is phenomenal. And *Words of Healing*, wow! Powerful! We're just saying thank you for being a miracle. The beautiful "Determined Eagle," -- beautiful bronze.

Randy and Mary will be back with us again tomorrow. Would you give them a big thank you for being here?

[Applause]

Praise God! Praise God!

Thank you so much. Tell your friends to watch tomorrow. They'll be blessed.