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Week 38: Shoes and Smiles
James and Betty Robison
Aaron and Amanda Crabb

James: I think y'all mean it! Thank you very much! Appreciate it.

I'm holding a great CD in my hand. I'm James Robison. Betty and I welcome you to *LIFE Today*. Aaron and Amanda Crabb, part of the Crabb family that are just incredibly gifted and anointed singers, this is a couple pastoring a church in the Nashville, Tennessee area. But they've got a new CD and the title is *Restore* and they're actually going to sing that to us and tell us a little bit about it later. Would you welcome Aaron and Amanda Crabb to *LIFE Today*? We're glad to have y'all back!

Aaron: Thank you. Glad to be here.

James: Now since you were last here, which was a few years ago; right? I think you'd been at Cornerstone Church with John Hagee and Matt Hagee. So you had just left Cornerstone and you went to the Nashville area. Tell me where you are, what's the name of the church?

Aaron: The name of the church is called Restoring Hope Church. It is something that really was birthed 13 years ago in my spirit in my prayer closet. But I was... Well, I'll just be transparent, music was my thing. I was comfortable there. But one thing I like to say is God doesn't call us to be comfortable he calls us to be obedient.

James: So as you're singing and you obviously had a gift, your family had it, which was natural, supernatural and so you're just riding along the wave of that gifting and the success and the blessings but God put something in your heart to go shepherd some people?

Aaron: Yes. I didn't know exactly location to be honest at that time 13 years ago. We only had Eli, which is my oldest son and I actually saw him praying in the altars. As I was praying, I saw him praying for people in the altars of what...

James: You mean this is a vision?

Aaron: -- A vision. And I saw the church and me preaching. Of course, I tried to say, "Oh, I'm singing up there."

James: But you actually saw yourself preaching. Well, can you preach?

Amanda: He can!

James: We know you can sing. Can you preach?

Amanda: He will tell you no. He is an incredible preacher and full of the zeal.

James: Communicator, teacher -- what is he? I'm an exhorter.

Amanda: He's an exhorter. Yes, sir! He is an exhorter of the truth.

James: Find some comfort in that, okay? So are you comfortable now doing it?

Aaron: I am.

James: Where is the church located? What part of Nashville?

Aaron: Hendersonville, Tennessee.

James: Well, that's Johnny Cash's home. Are you meeting in a church building, like a warehouse that's been renovated or do you have a church building?

Amanda: We have our own property. It is 1041 Center Point Road, and that's a miracle in itself. T.B.N., we started there at the facility in the auditorium. And our very first Sunday service, September 14th, 2014 we announced our property that had been empty for three years. It was a previous church; a church that had really fallen apart. They tried to do a satellite church and that wasn't working.

We made a crazy offer, a brand new church. To go get a facility, you have to have two years of tithing record. We didn't have that. So we stepped out in faith. God told us to go and we did. They had turned down 12 offers. And what was interesting is when ours came across the desk the financial --

James: Was it bigger offer you made?

Amanda: No! That's what I'm saying. It was a crazy offer but the financial officer of that church wanted to schedule a meeting with us. And when we sat down at the table downtown Nashville he said, "I had to look in the eyes of the people who were getting this property." He said, "Because 12 offers have come across my desk and I would hear the Holy Spirit..." I'm thankful for kingdom people who will listen to the Holy Spirit, "No, no." He said, "When your contract came across the desk, I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit say, "That property has been reserved for such a time as this."

And Restoring Hope is the name of the property. We see people come in off the streets. They say, "Is this a rehab facility?"

And we say, "Yes, it is!"

Of course, it is. We are a community outreach based. We have a summer program that every single Tuesday we set up water slides, we feed our community, sometimes up to 400-500 kids. And then we send them home with groceries. We have a food pantry that God is -- he is blowing our mind on that property. He gets all the glory. That's what the beautiful thing is.

James: Do you like this kind of story? It sounds like a miracle story. Do you all still travel and sing? Do you sing at the church, the two of you?

Aaron: Right now we do the worship and the preaching. We're waiting on a worship leader.

James: You're the whole thing.

Aaron: I might look a little tired.

[Laughter]

James: All right, *Restore*. Let's take that word *Restore*. It's the title of this. It's part of your church. Tell me about that.

Aaron: *Restore* is something that I think, Amanda and I, we both came from broken homes. She has a past of abuse and we've seen where God has brought a lot of healing in our own personal lives. That took a process; it didn't just happen overnight. There was a process and I believe we had to go through that so that we could do what we're doing today.

James: So some of the restoration process in your life, though, was the result too of seeing things, let's say in the lives in the part of Christians, people you know or respected and you saw things that you knew were not in harmony with the heart and will of God. Like it made a hole in

your heart and put a bruise on your psyche. Some people would say it is like let's say a tormenting spirit got a hold. Some people say it is like a curse that comes on you. It's like a bruise.

So when you're talking about being restored you need to be restored from the brokenness and the pain of what you had observed and what you had seen that had not only disappointed you but had a negative impact on you; right?

Aaron: Exactly. And I know fear. When your foundation is broken, when what you know as your foundation, the thing you can run to is broken then fear comes. Fear immobilizes you. That's the enemy's ultimate goal is to keep you from the purpose God has called you to do.

But you can turn it around. See, one thing that I have realized is that Nehemiah, the broke down wall, God can use broke down burnt stones. He can give them purpose again.

Amanda: And one of the things that we say at our church, we talk with a lot of couples and broken people in general, "You can come in this church and we could put paint on your walls but if there's mold and cracks it's all going to come back to the surface again."

And the restoration process, you may have a great foundation and you might have moldy walls; you need to tear down some stuff and then you can rebuild and paint and allow God to do his full work in your life. That's what our ministry is about.

This album has been a restoration process. We had the foundation of three years of tracks and music and it has been a three year process of putting it together for completion.

James: You know you sang a song that really ministered to us that Betty would play quite often when we went through the indescribable pain, the loss of our baby girl, our daughter. It was I believe...

Betty: "Take Me to the Place."

James: "Take Me to the Place." What's the message that you hoped communicates through that?

Amanda: Oh, the message of "Take Him to the Place" is a full restoration message. My personal testimony which you guys allowed me to share the last time we were here, abuse from the age of five and on up. And hidden things in our life that consumed and I didn't love myself, couldn't love anybody else. And I remember the day that the Lord took me to the scripture in

John and the 11th chapter where Lazarus is laid behind the tomb and Mary and Martha are just devastated. "Where were you?"

And for the first time in scripture I didn't feel condemned for questioning God. "Where were you when this happened to me? How could you allow this to happen? I was just an innocent child. You are ministers of the gospel. God where were you? Where were you?"

And the translation that I was reading that day it said, "Take me to the place where you've laid him." And he went and stood before the tomb and we know that Martha was very quick to say, "Lord, don't you know it's going to stink?" And of course, for a moment our environment is disrupted. But he told her, "If you will just believe you will see the glory of God revealed in your life."

Although I don't have all the answers, God did not make those things happen. But what I know is because I have seen the greater glory of God, I know the restoration power of what the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit can do to such a broken life. And the message that I hope is that people will get up from the ashes and move on into the future that God has. It may not be like we thought it was going to be but at the end it will be better than we ever imagined.

James: So we can take him to the place of pain, hurt, loss, suffering, devastation. Take me there. And he can turn that situation into a restoration resurrection, to new life. So you all have written a song. It is the title of this *Restore*. So just set it up. Tell me what led to the song. I know its ministry.

Amanda: Well, the song "Restore" we wrote while we were still in San Antonio. Sometimes you go, "God, what do we do?" We were a thousand miles away from family. The Hagees were so good to us and they still are. They are our family. But there was a season that when you're a million miles away and the enemy begins to isolate you, that we felt a struggle here. I pulled away. While he tried to hold me close I began to pull away and recluse. And that's what that song is about, is you know my doubts, you know my fears, and you know the story behind every tear. You held me close as I pushed you away. Why has it been so hard for me to say that I need your grace and I need your mercy? And it is that simple. God, I need you in this moment. When you invite him in that moment, he will fulfill all of his promises to us.

James: Would you like to hear them sing that message, "Restore"? Would you do that for us?

You know my doubts and you know my fears
You know the story behind every tear
You held me close as I pushed you away
Why has it been so hard for me to say
I need your grace
I need your mercy
I need your love to come and restore me

I need your grace

I know my thoughts and I have my plan
I hold your future in the palm of my hand
I was there when you hurt
And even questioned why
So open up your heart
I've been here the whole time

Your grace
I am your mercy
I am the love
I am your grace
I am your mercy
I am the love
That's ever restoring
I need your grace, Jesus
I am your grace

Every hour of every day
I need you to come and restore me

James: I'll tell you what. Now Aaron, I've got to be honest with you. I can't sing. When we get to heaven you're going to have to listen to me. For a year or two you're going to listen to me sing up there. But if I could sing like you, I'd have a hard time hearing the call to preach.

[Laughter]

Don't y'all agree he has a beautiful voice and she has a beautiful voice? Just fabulous! Just fabulous! I want to see God restore every broken heart, and I want to see people set free.

Father, I pray for everyone watching today, crushed by the past and now a prisoner to it. I want you to set them free from that past. Let them go back to the place of pain, loss, hurt and just lay it at your feet. And say, "Lift it off of me. Lift the burden with your mercy, your grace. Heal my heart. I trust it to you. I submit to you. I'm yielded clay. Shape me in your image. Forgive me, cleanse me, free me, restore me through your mercy and your grace"; in Jesus' name.

Phone number there on the screen, it's an 800 number, it's paid for by love. You need someone to pray for you? Trust God to restore your broken heart? You need to share something and ask someone to agree with you? Don't hesitate.

We praise God for what he has done and is doing in your life, what he is doing there in the Restoring Hope Church in the part of the country I love so much; two crusades there: Gallatin, Henderson, Hendersonville also, in the Vanderbilt Field House -- just great memories all over Tennessee. Thank you for being a witness like you are. May God use you to restore many broken hearts, broken homes, broken marriages and relationships and just continue to see miracles.

Betty and I just really rejoice and we're actually going to show our viewers this beautiful little Christmas ornament. This is a time when we talk about Christmas Shoes and Smiles. We're going to give the beautiful little gifts to people who actually help us put shoes on children. Do you mind if our viewers say, "Look, we'll help you give some smiles to children with surgery that have cleft palate or we'll put these little shoes on little feet and older children that can protect them," could we send them this CD to say thank you, too? Do y'all think that would be a good idea?

We want you to know. Here's the thing. We want to bless you. They want to bless you as a couple. Would you put some smiles on some little faces where they couldn't smile? This is a miracle! This is a miracle of love. And then would you put some shoes on some precious little feet and some young children, even some teenagers' feet where they're so susceptible to disease and infection from bacteria, and sometimes hookworms that can destroy even their minds? It can kill them. Would you do that for Christmas? I want you to watch closely because I think what you see is going to move you to become a miracle in someone's life. Watch.

On the mission field

James: Betty, all these people have wondered why we're here. How are you? And we have told them through translators that we're here because we love them and because we want to give

them a better life. We came in the name of the Lord Jesus but we didn't just come to talk about God's love, we came to share it and demonstrate it.

I'm kneeling here in Central America by a contaminated water source and we love to give water wells. But we found out something else. Because of contaminated water, and even contaminations and problems in the soil, children get little cuts in their feet and they pick up hookworms. And as I understand it that ultimately gets into their intestines and it is a horrible sickness. But it is a disease that not only brings incredible pain and discomfort but in so many instances death.

Betty: I'm sitting here with Berta and her eight children that she loves very, very much. She would do anything to take care of them health wise. She's just one example of one family that needs our help. We want to be able to put some shoes on the feet of these children -- precious feet! Jesus loves these children all over the world.

So as this example, as she sits here with her children, just visualize, just picture families, children all over the world that need to have shoes on their little feet. So I hope you will join with us. This is a great opportunity to bless these families that just barely get by from day-to-day. Please join with us.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I want to know if our television people can cut back to that mother with eight children around her. I've often said I can see a duck with her little ducklings. A beautiful Facebook post not long ago, millions of people watched it where these firemen were getting these little baby ducks out of the drain. And the momma duck with one baby is waiting there until she got every one of them. They had to go across the street to another drain to get all of them. That mom wouldn't leave until she got them all around her. It was the biggest bunch of smiles on those firemen and police officers that helped that little duck. But what I saw was a mother duck that seemed to show more intention and concern and gratitude for her babies than a lot of parents seem to focus on theirs.

That mother there with those eight children around her, Betty, if we would have gotten every one of those little kids' faces up close I'd have loved it. But what I saw, that mom, you don't understand this, all those little eight children, that's the greatest source of joy in her life. And you let one of those little sources of joy, they don't have entertainment, they don't have a television, they don't have electricity but they have a life and they love their little family. And

when you go and put little shoes like this on their feet and you bless that family, boy, you have blessed the Lord.

Jesus said, "You do it to me, you do it to me. You directly ministered to me, Jesus when you did that."

Betty, if we can just bless that mom and so many mothers with little children by putting these shoes on their feet. We want 150,000 kids to have shoes for Christmas this year.

Betty: Absolutely! I hope you will join us and let's put some shoes on the feet of these precious children. We've been there and we've handed them the shoes just as you saw. And one thing I noticed when I was over there is when we would put the shoes on the feet of the children, you look back and that mom is just smiling as big as she can. Because like James said, she loves her children. She wants them to be healthy. She wants them to be able to run around and play without the danger of their feet getting infected and that infection going through their whole body, James. So join with us, if you will and let's put some shoes on the feet of these children.

James: Well, we have actually been in some of those little places out there in the rural areas where we were giving shoes and trying to help them where we actually saw the doctors fighting for the life of babies, little children that had gotten contamination because of what gets in their little system, oftentimes through their feet.

So we're sending you this year like we've been doing now for six years, we're sending you the little Christmas ornament. But help us give 50 children shoes, 50 pairs of shoes, and make a gift, it takes \$180. You can give a \$36 gift and give ten children shoes. But if you make a \$180 and I'm really praying you'll do it, we're going to send you all the shoes that we ever designed and made for the children, and you put all those little Christmas ornaments on your tree.

And I want to promise you something. Everybody that comes and looks at your tree is going to ask you about those shoes and you're going to talk about the greatest gift of all, at Christmas is not only what Jesus gave when he gave us life but when we share his love with others.

And when you give children shoes and then the cleft palate surgeries, the smiles, takes \$500 for a surgery. We're asking you to pray about giving \$1,000 for two surgeries for two little children. We're talking about shoes and smiles for Christmas. This is a gift that lasts them so long and doing it lasts for eternity.

Jesus said, "When you do it to them, the little ones, the overlooked, you've done it to me."

Let's give Jesus a great gift for Christmas by giving love to those he loves so deeply. Would you right now go to LifeToday.org, take your bankcard and make the best gift you can? Please go there now. Take the time to do it. Or dial the number, use your bankcard and make the gift. If you want to make a check, make it to LIFE. But call us -- please! Call us and tell us what you're sending because 150,000 pairs of shoes is a lot. And then the smiles that we give with the surgeries is so important to so many precious children.

Thank you right now from the bottom of my heart for what you're led to do. Please make that call or go online. Thanks for doing it!

Begin video clip

Announcer: Poverty is a killer and because of it children needlessly suffer; not only from a lack of food and clean water but also from a lack of things we take for granted such as a healthy smile or a simple pair of shoes.

Far too many children living in poverty have never owned a new pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor in light of all their needs, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of life-threatening infections and disease that could lead to crippling consequences -- and even death.

By responding today you can help immediately secure and begin shipping Christmas shoes to 150,000 children around the world just in time for the holidays. Your gift of \$36 will help provide ten pairs of shoes. A gift of \$72 will help provide 20 pairs. And the gift of \$180 will help provide 50 pairs of Christmas shoes for children in need.

With your gift of any amount, be sure to request this beautifully crafted crystal shoe ornament, a treasure to place on your tree each holiday season. With your gift of \$180 or more you may also request this keepsake boxed set of LIFE's Christmas shoe ornaments.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective cleft palate surgeries and you may request our "Determined Eagle" bronze sculpture. Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Boy, you know it just -- you know we've talked about restoration and what you're doing for these little kids, for some of them you're restoring their world, you're giving them a future. I just want to thank you.

By the way, if you didn't already call and say, "I'm going to give 10 kids shoes" or "50 kids for Christmas," please do. Whatever you can do help. No gift is too small because it is all big. If you make a gift and you'd like to have this incredible CD by Aaron and Amanda, *Restore*, so many songs on here are so great, will minister to you. Well, just ask for it. Just help us give some kids some smiles and some shoes.

Would you say thanks to Amanda and Aaron for being a blessing to us? Thank y'all so much!

Thank all of you. Thank you for being here. Thanks for watching. Thanks for helping us give some shoes and some smiles.