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Week 14: Mission Rescue Life

James and Betty Robison

Clayton and Vera Dyess

James: I'm so glad to be sharing with you. I'm James Robison; Betty and I are thrilled to welcome you to *LIFE Today*.

My secretary gave me a letter the other day, handwritten, I think it was nine pages and I could actually read it -- and not because my eyes are better, they are, thanks to good doctors but it was written where you could read it. And it was written by a lady named Vera who said in 1966 when she was a teenager; you read it didn't you?

Betty: It was beautiful!

James: I came to her school in Pleasant Hill, Louisiana and I just shared the love of God. She said she got saved at the school. And they wouldn't let me give an invitation at schools but she knew I was talking about a friend that could change her life. So that night she came to hear me at the crusade. She said, "I was the first one forward." -- Gave her life to Christ in 1966.

She went on to talk about how she came to other meetings, Betty, and she saw me witnessing to kids on a parking lot or a school yard or out on the football field with kids or wherever. And when I got through reading the letter, both my secretaries, my assistants read it and I asked both of them, I said, "I want both of you to tell me, am I that same person?" They said, "You're that same person." Am I that same person?

Betty: Absolutely! You haven't changed.

James: You don't even have any idea how much I want you to know and love Jesus. Even if you just think you can't stand me, you like Betty, but you can't tolerate me, okay. Boy, I'd just love to show you how much God loves you. It breaks my heart that maybe I have failed.

Well, Vera Dyess wrote the letter and she told me that she had five children. And she had a son that has nine children and he witnesses on parking lots and sings, primarily Walmart parking lots and his name is Clayton. Well, that beautiful lady that wrote me that very touching letter is here with her son Clayton. I want you to welcome Vera and Clayton Dyess to *LIFE Today*. Would you give them a big welcome?

[Applause]

What do you want to say about what kind of got your attention and what happened to you there when you were a teenager and how it's lasted?

Vera: Well, I don't know where I would be if you had not been obedient and come to our school right at that time. That's exactly when I was going to make decisions about my life. I'm so thankful all these years, I've told God, thank you that James Robison was obedient and came to our school.

What I was touched by is I saw you ministering one on one to kids and you took time to talk to us one on one. We were in a group but we could step aside and talk with you at the church when the meeting was in progress. I've never forgot that advice and I took it and it stayed the course of my life as well. What I'm mostly was touched by is being able to see you at other places through the years and hear your testimonies on TV that you never thought you were too busy or too important to care about one person, one on one. That's what Jesus did -- the woman at the well, the young ruler -- the rich young ruler.

James: Zacchaeus in a tree.

Vera: Yes, and went home with Zacchaeus. So the Lord showed me that's real ministry. And you're letting the mind of Christ be in you is what makes the difference. I'll always be grateful.

James: You came to a lot of our conferences too. And you saw the glory of God on other people and you expressed it so beautifully.

Didn't you think it was a really very expressive inspirational letter the way she wrote it?

Betty: Absolutely, James. It was her story of how God turned her life, took her journey and turned it in a direction to plan the course of your life. It affected your family later on; God's just guided you through all of it just because of one person that was available to God. That's for all of us, we can all be that way. We can all say, "God, take this vessel and use us." And every person we come in contact with, one at a time just like you said.

James: You were thrilled to tell me about your son that could sing and play guitar. And how he would go to the Walmart parking lots or wherever people were and just start sharing Jesus. You sent me some YouTube clips. I can't tell you how they moved me. Didn't they, Betty?

I'm telling you, well, that son is here sitting by you, his name is Clayton. Clayton, you've got

nine kids, that's a pretty big responsibility. So I think a lot of people watching on television say, "How are you going to take care of nine kids singing on a Walmart parking lot?" Well, would you say it is miraculous how God has cared for you and your family?

Clayton: Most definitely miraculous. Without him I'm nothing.

James: Why did you go to Walmart parking lots?

Clayton: I felt like that's where the biggest flow of people would be, and people from all walks of life, and people who most definitely were away from God but also those who are even serving God need a touch from God from time to time through the leading of the spirit, through a song, through maybe one word. It could bring to their memory something that God did in the past and stir it up again.

James: You went right in to where people needed help. I want to show you -- I just want to show you a clip of Clayton with his guitar. Now my secretary, she pays you a pretty good compliment the first time she heard you. She said, "I think he sounds a little bit like Elvis." Well, hey! All you folks out there, Colonel Parker, resurrect a little bit here.

But here's the thing, he does have a wonderful voice but the thing I saw was just the compassion of the Lord. I mean the love of God. Let's just watch him a little bit on this Walmart parking lot singing. If you'll bring that up for us.

Begin video clip

[Clayton singing]

And I enjoy
The bread and wine
I feast on Jesus
He's true all the time
I rejoice
Well, I woke up this morning
And I rose out of bed

Bless you, thank you!

Looked out of my window
Over my head

End of clip

In the studio

James: Now do you have to -- I noticed someone gave you a little something there.

Betty: They were picking up a CD.

James: Were they picking up a CD? Now you let people have CD's and if people wanted a CD of your songs, do you write some of them yourself?

Clayton: Some of them are original. Yes.

James: And you have others. I think Vera, you told me he actually has to print the CD's himself. He doesn't have a company putting them out. So if some of you are producers of music and you want to produce them a little faster, I bet we could arrange it. It could save him some time. He could go to more parking lots.

But what you do is they can have the CD. They can leave something for it if not, they can just take your music and take the message of love with them. You trust the Lord to take care of you. When you're there, do people come up to you -- I know they do -- and they just start talking to you. They ask you why you're there. What sort of main questions do you get?

Clayton: Well, just like you were saying, "Why am I out here? I tell them, "To lift up Jesus." I tell them because without him we're not going to make it to heaven.

James: So you tell them to trust him. Do you see people trust him? That you felt like they went away and they definitely heard the Lord and he moved in their heart?

Clayton: Yes, sir.

James: Now we had a young man that came up and this is what you sent me, Vera who -- let's just see what happened to one of them that saw you out there on a parking lot and then he came back sometime later and thanked you and you just happened to get this and then you got it to where he could tell his story. Watch this closely.

Begin video clip

>> How has Clayton Dyess Music with a Message Ministry impacted your life?

>> Well, it's impacted my life several times over the years. This is actually my third time to have opportunity to meet Mr. Clayton. And the reason that I wanted to meet him this time was to tell him that the encounter that I'd had with him previously was something that really made a difference in my life.

I was leaving school one day and I was going to this bar that I'd usually go to after school, ride my skateboard over there and I heard some music that was going on in the Walmart parking lot next door. So I was drawn to this music. When I went and I heard him I sat down on the steps and I was listening to him. And when I sat there and listened to him for about a song or two I realized that it was ministering to my heart because I knew that God was speaking to me at that moment maybe because I hadn't sat still enough in the past for him to be able to reach me.

So whenever I was sitting there, one of the ministry partners came and approached me. Of course, made me a little uncomfortable at first but nonetheless she was really sweet and asked if she could pray for me. I said, "Absolutely!"

After she had prayed for me she said something that stuck with me over the years. She said, "Excuse me, son. Do you have any ministers that are in your family?"

I said, "No ma'am, I don't have any ministers in my family."

She said, "Well, for some reason whenever I was praying for you I just really felt strongly that God had a call to ministry on your life."

And of course, I really just did think that she was just crazy there because I'd never had that type of relationship with God. Years go by and it wasn't that much long until I had a true love encounter with the love of Jesus. And five years into serving in ministry, God gave me the opportunity to be able to serve as a youth pastor. And I was reminded of what God said through that woman that many years ago right in the Walmart parking lot with Clayton Dyess.

So what Clayton's Music with a Message means to me is it's really indescribable because I may not have taken a whole lot away from it right then but it was God being able to show me how that role had played a part in me being reconciled back to him later on in life.

End of clip

In the studio

James: How does that make you feel listening to that?

Clayton: Well, that puts you on cloud nine.

James: And that happens, those kind of stories have happened. Now how many years have you been going to the parking lots?

Clayton: Oh better than 20.

James: Better than 20 years. And you know when I called you to tell you I was inviting you here, Vera, I said, "Where's Clayton?"

She said, "Well, it's raining real hard here so Clayton drove over to Lufkin tonight because he heard it wasn't raining as hard over there. And he's over there on a Lufkin parking lot."

And that's where you were born; you were born in Lufkin. And he's over there doing a witness. I did a crusade in their stadium. I've just kind of been all over east Texas and all around where you all live in Louisiana telling people about Jesus.

Now if people want to get your CD's or they want to know about your ministry and you'll have set up a 501C3 if people who want to support you, and I pray you will. Where would they go online to find you?

Clayton: That would be MusicWithaMessage.net.

James: And they just established that because we asked them to. Because Clayton said, "All I have is a telephone number." I thought, dear Lord! I get 1500 calls a day on the average and I'm thinking, he's going to really have a busy time. He won't be able to get to the Walmart parking lot for answering the phone. So he got a website for you.

Here's the thing I want you to know. I'm going to sow a seed that this is a gift and half of it comes from me and Betty and the other half comes from *LIFE Outreach*. You can go to the website now, it is printed there on the screen. If you call the phone center, they'll tell you what it is.

Here's what I want you to do. I want you to pray that God will raise up witnesses like this all over America and all over the world that will do just whatever they can. What you don't know is that many of the stadiums have filled up in the early years, filled up because of what I did on parking lots.

You get the book, *Living Amazed*, just read the first story. I just stopped on a parking lot and basically 30% of the whole city's population got saved and nobody even knew I was a preacher.

Read it. Get *Living Amazed*. The stories in there, just like my encounter with Muhammad Ali, with Ronald Reagan, so many things that happened but then people you've never heard of and what happened.

Here's this gift. Aren't you grateful that we can help Clayton? Clayton, I want you to pick up your guitar. Did you want to say something? I didn't want to cut you off. Were you wanting to say something right there?

Clayton: Oh, I'm very grateful! Thank you so much!

James: I didn't mean to cut you off but I knew you were. Would you like to hear him sing and play the guitar?

[Clayton sings]
 O Lord my God
 When I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the worlds thy hands have made
 When I see the stars
 I hear the rolling thunder
 Thy power throughout the universe displayed
 He's all powerful
 And then sings my soul
 My savior God to thee
 How great thou art
 How great thou art
 Then sings my soul
 My savior God to thee

Big enough to create the universe but yet he lives in our heart.

How great thou art
 How great thou art

[Cheers & Applause]

James: Well, I want you to know Clayton. Boy, I really love you. You may not understand this but what I see in you is what I feel like the Lord saw in me. And you were there, Betty. Betty couldn't get through a meal in a restaurant without knowing give the spirit a minute.

Betty: And you did!

James: He'd go table to table. I chased people out of restaurants more than once. Today they think you're fixing to rob them or terrorists, they'd probably shoot you. But I just -- that's still in me. I don't ever want it to go away.

Here's what I want. Here's why you're here. I want to bless you but I want people watching to realize just how effective they can be if they just love people like you are. I just think you're one of the finest people I've ever met, Clayton.

And Vera, I just thank you for sharing your son. I just pray Lord, I pray for these nine children. Lord, I pray for Clayton and his precious wife. I want you to take care of them. I want you to multiply his effectiveness and raise up thousands of people just like him that just go love people; in Jesus' name I pray.

I want to thank you. Can we say thanks to Vera and to Clayton for being obedient to the Lord? Vera, thank you for sharing your heart. You don't have any idea because sometimes we in ministry 55 years, more than that, I've been married 55 years, I've been in ministry about 56 or 57 years now, public ministry. The more that we go, sometimes we just need to be taken back with somebody that says, "You know what happened to me a long time ago? More than 50 years, this is what happened to me. And I look, this is my son." You've got an awesome son in my opinion. Clayton, you're pointing to the most awesome son -- the son of God. I just pray the Lord blesses you.

Our viewers, by the way, to me you're the most awesome people on the planet. I hope you'll pray for Clayton. I hope some of you will get that address and give him some support just like Betty and I did. You pray God take care of him and multiply him, people like him.

But right now, we're going to, our viewers love to help get people out of trouble. We got these precious girls that have been taken prisoner and sold into sexual slavery and we're going to change it with the love of God. I want you to watch because I promise you, you are the one that's going to set somebody free today.

On the mission field

Announcer: Trafficking -- it is an industry run by the most evil of opportunists; all just waiting for their chance to snatch up another weak and defenseless victim like Meech.

Open Captions: At night, I would sift through street trash to find things to sell. I could earn about \$1.50. If I didn't earn enough, my father wouldn't let me sleep inside.

One night, some gangsters attacked and raped me. I was left unconscious in a pile of garbage. Two men offered help, but they too raped me, and then sold me to a brothel. I screamed for help but no one came. I always cried so much it angered the customers. They would hit me and force themselves on me. If I didn't sleep with the customers the owner threatened to sell and traffic me to another country. The room I was in was like a prison.

When I was 14 and a half I decided to try to escape. It was around 3:00 a.m. the brothel owner was away and the guard was asleep. My room was on the second floor so I tied clothes together as a rope and climbed out the window. When I got to the ground I climbed a fence and ran to a motor taxi to find my way home.

Announcer: The story of Meech's abduction and abuse is common. Her escape was not. Countless girls just like Meech remain enslaved and desperate for rescue.

End of clip

In the studio

James: And Jesus made it clear in his first real public announcement of the fulfillment of prophecy that was shared in Isaiah that he did come to bind up the brokenhearted but he made it very clear he came to set captives free.

She escaped but here's the thing you need to understand, she escaped, Betty to a place where she could be rescued and restored. That place, this is what I want you to hear now. I want you to take it as personal as you can. The place for girls like that to go to be restored is a place of love and it is provided by people like you. Destiny House, houses of love, we have a place called Joshua House, a place of love, all of these places, most of them, have been developed over the years by support from people like you to where we can take care of them. And we're still renting facilities where we have to because these missionaries and rescue workers have planted their life to literally set captives free and restore them and give them a future. So it's just a continuous outpouring of the love of God.

I want us to rescue far more. We've already with the missionaries request targeted 2500 in areas we know but here's what's happened. Viewers like you said, "We will match what's given." That means we can reach 5,000 with your help.

The average cost to reach, to rescue and to restore one person, one child, one person like that, is

\$128 a year. Will you give that? It will be matched and you will have rescued two. Go get your bankcard, go get a check, make it to *LIFE* or take that bankcard and use it now. Dial the number there or go online, please do it right now because I mean the missionaries are waiting and we're right near the very end of this outreach for this time, this year.

Please make the gift God puts on your heart. If you could give \$1280 that rescues ten, I'm asking you to do that if you can. Betty and I have joyfully. And thank God, we've asked him to let us do that and we find people everywhere praying, we can drill a water well, we can rescue ten. If you can do it, it will be doubled to 20 because of the love of God through others like you.

Please go get your card or your check, call the number or go online. We have some gifts to send you to say thank you but you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving life and freedom because of the love of God poured out through you. Thank you for doing it. Please don't be distracted. The opportunity too great, the need too great -- don't miss it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Innocent children and young people longing to be loved and cared for are being abducted and sold at the hands of violent predators; their spirit and bodies broken under horrific emotional and physical abuse. Through Mission: Rescue Life you can reach out to warn children vulnerable to sex traffickers. You can help rescue those already enslaved. And you can help restore young lives and give them a future.

And now a generous opportunity of a \$320,000 matching gift means your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child will be matched to help two children. Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. And a \$32 Rescue gift will be doubled to \$64.

With your gift we'll send you *The Age of Promise*, Randy Robison reveals ten promises woven through all of scripture that will transform the way you view God, yourself, and others. With your gift of \$128 or more you'll receive "The Prayer is Powerful" wood plaque. This unique scripture art piece is printed on premium Birchwood, a beautiful reminder of the power of prayer.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1280, which will now help rescue 20 children and you may request the beautiful "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade. Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today.

End of clip

In the studio

James: We want to say thank you. Randy's book, *The Age of Promise* will bless you, we will send to say thanks, and the beautiful prayer plaque that you can either hang on a wall or put on a little stand. Or I hope if you can help us rescue ten you'll get that beautiful canvas by Kinkade, the "Bridge of Faith."

Would you join Betty and me in saying a great big thank you to Clayton and his mom, Vera. Thank you, buddy. There is, if you've forgot his website you can call the phone center or there it is online.

Thank all of you for being here. Thanks for sharing life!