

5/11/18
Week 19: Spring Mission Feeding
James and Betty Robison
Mission special #2

James: Welcome! I'm just so glad -- I'm so glad to have a chance to share with you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I just praise God for the blessings that a walk with the Lord affords us. Our Pastor Robert Morris preached "The Blessed Life" and he first -- think about this -- the first time he ever taught it was right here in this studio. It was before he ever had a church. He was an associate pastor and would come here occasionally. He would travel with me for several years but then he's at a church and comes here and teaches "The Blessed Life" and then starts a church called Gateway. It's one of the most powerful mission-minded, mission-giving churches in the world. The thing that Robert shared that is so true is it is a blessing to give.

I was just looking at Paul talking about really kind of the difficult times in his life where he doesn't know if he is going to be around. He said -- this is a very powerful passage: "From the first day that I set foot in Asia I was with you the whole time serving the Lord with all humility and with tears."

I've apologized a lot for the fact that I can't stop weeping over the things I believe God weeps over, the Lord does, Jesus does. And here is Paul saying, "I'm warning you day and night with tears. I've got a broken heart... and with trials which came upon me from the plots of religious people. But I didn't shrink back from declaring to you anything that was profitable teaching you publically and from house to house testifying to the Jews and the Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ."

This is what I prayed. This is basically, Betty what I've been doing and preaching now for way over 50 years; I'm now headed towards 60 years preaching. I've been preaching repentance and faith toward the Lord God and the transforming power of the gospel.

But he goes on to say, "Now I'm going bound in the spirit to Jerusalem." Because everybody is telling him, "Don't go! It's going to be trouble." Basically, some are saying, "You're going to die."

But he says, "I'm going bound in the spirit."

One of the greatest messages I've ever heard, you probably can go online and find it somewhere

was by Craig Groeschel from Oklahoma, the Oklahoma City area. But his church touches all of Oklahoma, Life TV Church, and then it is online and there's hundreds of thousands of people watching every week, many of them in India. But he preached a message on being bound in the spirit, carried by the spirit not knowing what would happen. And others said, "Well, you may just lose your life."

He says, "It doesn't matter. I'm doing what God wants." But he closes that discourse with this simple quote from Jesus: "It's more blessed to give than to receive."

Let me tell you where receiving is especially appreciated. That's where you have nothing and suddenly you have what is essential and it starts changing everything. That's where receiving is big. But when you're the giver of that which changes everything and gives life -- Betty the only way we could go back to the mission field continually for over 20 years and those exhausting travel situations and dangerous situations is because we're giving something that is beyond description precious and it is a blessing.

Now I want you to listen to truth from a missionary about a situation that's very real that your love and the blessing of giving changes everything for them. Now just look. Watch.

On the mission field

Isak: It really just breaks my heart how the children in this village know what it means to have an empty bowl because empty bowls mean empty stomachs and empty stomachs mean going to be a night after night suffering from the pain of hunger, starvation, malnutrition and ultimately death.

The graves are full -- full of children; precious little lives, children who have a name, children who mean so much to their family, children whose lives are stolen simply because they didn't have enough food.

Open Captions:

>> Sometimes we pick leaves so we can eat for one day. I am so tired of this life. I don't know how long we can last. I have nothing. What are we going to do to survive?

[Crying]

Isak: We can end that pain. We can end the suffering of children going to bed at night with the pain of hunger. We can end the cycle of death, of mother burying child because she wasn't able to give them enough food. It is so easy to change it.

Please, give the gift of life to these children and fill the empty bowls.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Well, Isak, that's pretty moving to me because I know where these colorful bowls came from. We watched people come for years with cans like this. This one actually is not bent too badly; when we brought it back from the mission field they tried to get one that looked pretty good. Here's what a lot of them brought. They brought some kind of a plastic bag. This is a Ziploc. Most of them were plastic wrappers or containers that were around something else and they would bring them to get this hot soup mix that was like a porridge, like a cream of wheat or an oatmeal and it is precisely designed for the nutritional need in that particular area. When we would put it in these old cans the soup had to be hot because the water that's accessible has to be boiled. And then you cook and prepare the porridge or the soup mix and it would burn their little fingers. Or we watched them too many times, it would burn right through the bag but the child would drop to the ground and start eating right out of the dirt. It would just tear your heart out.

Bruce Jacobson, our executive producer who went to the mission fields many times, he was actually sitting with a child one time, Betty and the little child starts eating dirt. He is just very hungry and he is waiting, there's going to be food served over here in a little bit and he is eating dirt. It just tore Bruce up. He had a nice stable family, and grew up in a -- his father was a medical doctor. Hard to imagine a child eating dirt.

So when Isak is talking about an empty bowl and empty stomachs and I see the orange bowls there, my heart just starts racing over the fact that you who watched us saw these cans. Now think about this, you, the viewer, you saw the cans and some of you saw the bags and then you said, "Can't you get them heat resistant bowls?"

And the missionary said, "We don't have money to give them a bowl. We've got to get them food -- they're dying!"

So I told you that. And you said, "We'll give them the bowls and the food."

And we began to, like if you fed -- let's say you feed three children for the next several months with a gift of \$30, you say, "We'll add \$3 if they're a dollar a bowl; and when we feed 50 we'll add \$5 and we've got five bowls; and we feed 100 and we'll add \$10 and we've got ten bowls."

And the missionaries were just -- Betty, they couldn't believe it! We were stunned that our

viewers are that way. The viewers have carried us.

Betty: Not only bowls that wouldn't burn their little fingers but we were able to measure how much to put in the bowls according to how much porridge we had there, how much food for them, so we didn't run out. Because too many times we would see a child that stood at the back of the line for hours and then their turn to get some soup, there wasn't any. So we were determined that we were going to be able to have enough for all of them that came.

James: And that's when you literal a coined one of the most powerful requests ever made that we got to watch God answer. With a broken heart Betty said, when she'd see these children and the food is gone, and they're standing there and then we watch them dive in the barrel, start trying to scrape the soup mix out and Betty said, "We're going to pray, join me praying that the line to feed the children will always be longer than the line to be fed."

And miraculously, Betty I'm telling you now for the last 10-15 years we've seen that prayer answered. Very rarely have we had such a crisis come in so quickly that the lines would be too long and then we'd have to come back to you and say, "This whole thing is exploding and they're doubling the numbers so we need to help them."

But Betty is talking about how we had the bowls here that we could apportion it because they have measuring lines in them. What you could do is you could number one give them the amount for sure that will feed the whole group. But also, sometimes the nutritional demand would enable you to give it at a certain level. So they could do that.

So you see the things that the missionaries bring us are one thing, the ideas that you bring are magnificent and supernatural. But here's the big deal. Every single good idea that works costs love and time and money -- resources. There is no way that we're going to be able to put something in these bowls if you do not make it possible. So we're coming to you right now with 400,000 children right now that the missionaries have organized in areas of crisis and we're asking you go to help us feed them for the next months: \$30, \$50, or \$100 we feed three, five or ten children. If you've watched us ever in the past you know that amount. For some of you it's a first. It seems amazing but it works: \$30, \$50, \$100 -- three, five or ten children. And I'll always ask you, if God has blessed you where you can have the experience of blessing others and giving at a higher level and help us touch 100 lives and feed them, can you make a \$1,000 gift? Whatever you can do, I'm asking you right now to go online or dial the number and make the gift God puts on your heart. Thank you so much for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In impoverished and drought-stricken areas of Africa children are suffering. The need is great and without food they face severe malnutrition -- even death.

With your support LIFE's Mission Feeding outreach can save lives by feeding and caring for children in the hardest hit areas of Angola, Mozambique, and South Sudan. With previous reserves gone and Mission Feeding helping in areas with severe crop failure we urgently need to replenish our food supplies to reach 400,000 children who are counting on us.

Your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. And with your gift of any amount, we'll send you *Proverbs Power: Successful Communication*. This powerful CD series, along with study guide featuring Steven K. Scott unveils the secrets to incredible wisdom found only in the book of Proverbs. This series will give you the tools to transform your relationships in life.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the complete *Proverbs Power* library featuring five power-packed sessions that include: The Power of Vision, Breaking through Mediocrity, and much more.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request the "Bridge of Faith" framed canvas print by Thomas Kinkade.

Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today.

End of clip

On the mission field

Sheila: I woke up this morning in this village, this is my first time in Angola and I honestly don't know what I expected but I didn't expect what I experienced. I didn't expect to see a child who is a year and five months old and weighs six pounds. How does a child like that even survive?

I think one of the things that surprised me most was the profound affinity I felt with the moms. If you're a mom, all you want is for your child to be healthy. You want to be able to put a meal on the table at night and know that your children go to bed with a full tummy. But here I've seen what the ravages of malnutrition do.

In many places where we've been the crops had been destroyed this year and that's what they depend on. So, so many of the moms have to go out and work for two days to get one small meal

for their children at night. The meal that they provide has no protein. So when they get sick they go down so quickly.

But the other thing and this is the thing that blew me away, is I saw the difference that Mission Feeding makes. To be able to be in a village and to see this long snake line of little kids who are behaving like little kids should, they're laughing, they're excited and happy. That's why I know there's hope.

Mission Feeding is not some great idea we came up with. It's simply living out the gospel of Christ. And when we put one simple bowl of food into the hands of these children in Africa, it changes their lives forever -- thousands and thousands and thousands of lives, one life at a time.

End of clip

In the studio

James: You know I think that just watching Sheila there and knowing that she's seen a lot all over the world, what a great gifted person: *Women of Faith*, traveling and singing soloist for Billy Graham, co-host with the T.B.N. 700 club and just to watch her, boy, as a missionary with a missionary's heart. But looking at what God's love through you has done -- Betty, those long lines and they're with the little bowls and all of that. See the missionaries are there because of love and compassion. They leave their comfort and they go into the midst of suffering to bring love and healing and compassion but they're totally limited. It is like the bottom line of preaching the gospel. How are they going to believe if they don't hear? How are they going to hear if they're not going to preach? Well, how do they preach -- preach -- unless they're sent?

The bottom line in the power effect of the gospel is the one who sends. Don't look at yourself as insignificant or small because the missionaries -- we asked, "You want us to stay?"

They said, "No, please don't!" It wasn't that they didn't like us. They liked us. They said, "Go back and get the people to help us so we can stay. So we can do something."

Betty, when we give the \$30, the \$50, the \$100 and our viewers all join together we save the lives of over 13 million children one at a time -- three, five, ten at a time. It is our viewers that do it.

Betty: And this is the beautiful reward of what you, joining with *LIFE Outreach* have been able to do. We go from the desperation, from the dying children, from the mothers that seem so hopeless because their child -- they love their babies! I know the desperation that mother feels in her heart. I've lost a child -- not to starvation but through disease. So I know what's going on

and stirring in her heart. She is pleading, "Somebody help my baby!"

And as you've seen, we've been able to help so many. Thank you so much for joining with us. Let's continue with it. Let's continue and get them before they get to the clinics where it is so bad they might not make it. Please join with us. Let's be able to see those lines with the bowls so that we can fill those bowls with the nutrition that they need.

James: It's like Isak said, "If you've got an empty bowl you've got an empty stomach." You've got an empty stomach; you've got an unhealthy child. Many times you've got a child that is facing death, very near death.

Right now we're in the process the turning it around. Everything is in place. We've located the need. We've got them organized, we know where we'll feed them, we just need the resources to supply the food; the bowls are not empty. Would you right now go online or would you dial that number? Take your bankcard, go get it, use it like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but we'd really like you to call and tell us what you're putting in the mail or put your gift on that card right now. Would you do it?

We have some gifts to send you; the *Proverbs Power* teaching by Steve Scott in audio, all the different series. Those of you who will give \$100; touching on all the different areas of importance to you from the book of Proverbs, the wisdom of God shared freely.

We want to say thank you. We want to bless your life. You're giving life, you're blessing lives, you become the miracle answer to prayer. Thank you so much. Thanks for going online or dialing that number. Thanks for your gift.

Begin video clip

Announcer: In impoverished and drought-stricken areas of Africa children are suffering. The need is great and without food they face severe malnutrition -- even death.

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End of clip

On the mission field

Announcer: Areas of Southern Africa are currently experiencing one of the worst droughts seen in over 30 years, and as a result the usual crop harvest has failed yet again. Desperate for food of any kind, families living in the remote villages of Angola will try to eat just about anything but unfortunately, leaves and tree pods offer little nutritional value. The effects of this devastating drought are most obvious on the young children.

Isak: I'm here with a little girl called Adalena. She is just two years old and you can see from the color of her hair, from her extended belly, this child is not in good condition. Her health is not good. The reason being because she hasn't had good nutrition. This child has really suffered. This village just some months ago there were children that were dying here. Dying on a weekly and a monthly basis as a result of malnutrition, starvation, simple lack of food.

And yet, thanks to you, thanks to the gifts that you've given, you've made it possible for us to bring Mission Feeding to her village. Her story is going to be a good story. A story of life rather than death.

But if you look just over my shoulder you'll see the valley behind me and just in that valley is a village where we were yesterday. It is a village where they don't have Mission Feeding and so children are dying. Mothers told us some had lost two, some three, one mother as many as five children to malnutrition. But it is so easy for us to change that. It is so easy for us to extend what we're doing here in this village.

The trucks are here. Our people are here. We're ready to do it. We're ready to extend Mission

Feeding into their village, and to extend that life line. You can make it possible for us to end the cycle of death. Please help us today. Give the gift of life. Give Mission Feeding.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I know many of you are responding and I just personally want to say thank you. But the missionaries have communicated with us; it's a very serious situation now. I really didn't mention it earlier and I probably should have but we're dealing with about a six-month drought crisis that has hit Angola and the countries in that region of the continent of Africa. It's devastating! It's not something that's going to turn around rapidly. And that means that boy, we really need some help.

I always try to let you know the importance of a \$30 or \$50 gift because it's life to three or five children -- that's huge! But I also ask you to kind of stretch your, let's say vision and your trust and your faith that if you could make the \$100 gift and help ten children we need it now. But then I want to go one a little more. There are some of us who could help us feed 100 children -- that's 100 families! You might say even in many instances 100 moms' prayers answered with a gift of \$1,000. If you're able to do more than that, I believe you will. I found that people could give several thousand dollars a lot of times. All you need to know is that there is a need that can be effectively and realistically met.

Well, we can promise you, when you feed the hungry children nutritious, vitamin enriched porridge soup mix changes everything. This works. It is a miracle. It's a miracle of love. So would you make that special gift? In light of the crisis and the drought we really need some people to step up big time. So if you can, please do. Thank you so much.

Betty: Thank you so much. I know your heart's been touched to the point that you want to help as much as you can. Ask God what you can do -- the best that you can do to help these precious children who deserve the help; to be able to grow up and their mothers watch them grow up. So please join with us and let's feed the children.

James: Well, Betty, I'm really grateful. I have a confidence in my heart that God answers prayer and he uses us as the answer to prayer so often. I just want to thank you for being an answer to prayer. I think you'll find as Isaiah 58 promises, read it, you meet the need of others, you notice the poor, you don't overlook them and God says he will answer quickly and boy, sometimes we really need that! Thank you for being an answer to prayer. May God bless you

as you bless others! Thank you so much!