

5/22/18  
**Week 21: Spring Mission Feeding**  
**James and Betty Robison**  
**Greg Laurie**

**James:** Betty, are you glad to be sitting here?

**Betty:** I am!

**James:** She's had a little knee challenge. Which knee is it?

**Betty:** I'm protecting it over here from you hitting me.

**James:** Had stem cell injections. Now there's the possibility and she's got progress but that everything kind of grows back. So just put that little prayer on it. I'm James Robison. My wife Betty and I thrilled to have you at *LIFE Today*.

Greg Laurie is here from Harvest Christian Fellowship in the great state of California which does require some prayers, this part of the Promised Land. But the point is that boy, I'm telling you, God has just really, really blessed him and through him. He's coming back to our state but actually coming to extend an invitation to the nation; perhaps the most important invitation you'll ever consider.

Would you welcome Greg Laurie to *LIFE Today*? Greg, good to see you, buddy. Man, you know, I've preached all over Orange County, I've preached in Anaheim, I preached with Wimber years ago with the Vineyard, when John was a blessing. I even preached at Melodyland. You may remember some of the Baptist preaching at Disneyland?

**Greg:** Right across from Disneyland.

**James:** Exactly. Can you believe a Southern Baptist would go out and preach a message? That was a stretch; right?

**Greg:** Yeah!

**James:** You probably have been amazed at how God stretched me. It is just beyond belief. You have a church that now more than one campus. Tell us where it is because it is in Orange County but tell us.

**Greg:** Well, back when the Jesus movement was happening in the early '70s I came to Christ. My life was radically changed. My mom was an alcoholic, married and divorced seven times. I was raised in this crazy atmosphere. So when I heard the gospel for the first time in a way I could understand it, it changed my life and I wanted to reach my generation.

So it started with a little Bible study in a town called Riverside. It was from Orange County which is about an hour from Riverside. People know it best because of the TV show, the OC, right? That's where I was born and raised. But this little Bible study turned into a church. I was like 20. So before I knew it, people were calling me Pastor Greg. I didn't ever aspire to be a pastor. In fact, I thought God was calling me to be an evangelist but I realized that he'd given me this little flock that soon became a larger flock.

So fast forward over 40 years and we had a great Easter. We saw oh my goodness, I think it was an all-time record attendance. It was like 34,000 people showed up on Easter Sunday. So it was amazing.

[Applause]

But that's not our normal attendance. You know everybody goes to church on Easter; right? So we take advantage of it and share the gospel with them. We have a campus in Riverside, Orange County; and believe it or not, one in Lahaina, Maui that recently came and joined our Harvest family. So it's great.

**James:** While you're talking about this I'm looking at this Jesus Revolution. Now this is a book that will be out in June. This is a bus. Now did you ever have anything to do with a bus like that?

**Greg:** Volkswagen buses were very popular back then. So that's sort of -- we did that in the art department. There is a little bit of photo shop in that. But there were buses that looked like that. And actually, we were talking the other day, let's create this thing in real life because I want to drive that crazy looking thing.

**James:** I figured you might want to. I actually think that could actually become a kid's game. This thing, it could be like the little train that can. But you've got here, "The Revolution: How God transformed an unlikely generation and how he can do it again today." Which would be equally as unlikely or maybe it is hard to believe this, but a stretch more unlikely.

So you're talking about the power of God that impacted and changed your life impacting people. You want people to see what happened but you're writing with the inspiration for it to happen now.

**Greg:** That's right. We actually... I wrote this book with Ellen Vaughn. She has written a lot of books with Chuck Colson, an outstanding writer. So it's not in my voice, it is sort of about me and other people that were involved in the Jesus movement which was the last great American revival. I think we're overdue for another one. America needs a spiritual awakening.

So I wrote this book in a way, James and Betty, not so much like let's live in the past, weren't those days great but it is more like I'm writing it to someone younger saying this is what happened and it can happen again. Here's how it happened. It can be summarized in two covers of TIME magazine. In the late '60s, TIME did a cover story, black cover, red type: Is God Dead? Three years later a psychedelic drawing of Jesus: Jesus Revolution. That's what happened in the space of a few years and even TIME paid attention to it. So we need to see that again with the millennial generation who you've been talking to. And they're looking for authenticity, they're looking for community, they're looking for reality. I think what they're looking for, they don't know yet, they're looking for Jesus and we have that message and that's a message we want to proclaim to them -- and everybody!

**James:** Now I have seen you many times where you and I have really joined together with church leaders that are really serious about the gospel and really serious about what God can do here through the church, through his people, through his family. We, in our prayer time, are believing God to move mountains spiritually, and the resistance to the love of God, the grace of God, the transforming power of the gospel. Really, it is almost like in many ways there's kind of an anti-God, anti-Bible, anti-biblical worldview.

So we've been really praying together so we've become pretty close. But you and I have wonderful little gathering for just a few minutes, in a kind of unusual, you might say little cubicle. You and Robert and I looked out in amazement at AT&T Stadium which is where we used to have football teams here in Dallas. So they've got a nice...

**Greg:** They built that for the gospel.

**James:** It is a memorial to the Cowboys that we all remember. But here you are and we were standing up there together looking down. I've filled stadiums, I've filled Ranger stadium, and I did all the stadiums in this whole area and coliseums and so forth so I understand that. But we're at Cowboys' stadium; they're pushing 100,000 seats in there potentially and we're sitting there with the whole place filling up. And all the sudden we realize that they're not letting any more come in -- it's full! And this is AT&T Stadium and you're fixing to go preach to them. And you did have some pretty good musicians there; you had Mercy Me. Mercy Me was pretty -- mercy me!

[Laughter]

So there were just a lot of things going on there.

**Greg:** Chris Tomlin, Lecrae -- yeah!

**James:** The whole bit. You had some help, let's face it. But it was amazing. So they counted 85,000 but then you tell us what -- because you're fixing to come back, right. Tell us when.

**Greg:** June 10th of this year which is soon. June 10th, same place, AT&T Stadium, Chris Tomlin will be with us again. This time we're going to have Switch but they were with us last time, a great little Christian rock band. We're also going to have Crowder, Phil Wickham, and some other surprises.

But what happened was we filled the stadium and I was told it was the first time they shut the doors to the stadium and said, "You can't come in. We're filled to capacity." So the reason we call this Harvest America is because as it happens in a venue like AT&T Stadium, it is happening around the country, in host venues where we send a live H.D. signal out so it's being watched in churches, theaters.

**James:** Could you host one in your subdivision, your community?

**Greg:** You can host it anywhere. People go to [HarvestAmerica.com](http://HarvestAmerica.com). It actually tells you how to be a host site.

**James:** So does the host site have to be established to get the exact feed? Because people can watch it on their iPad or their iPhones.

**Greg:** Any way they want it. We make it super accessible. We have sort of a dedicated really extra special feed that is really good for showing in large venues. But anybody can watch it on a phone and a tablet; and that's the amazing thing about technology today is for the first time in the world we actually have the potential to literally fulfill the great commission because of how many people have access now to streaming media. When it was all said and done we had 350,000 people watching it in a venue.

**James:** While it is happening.

**Greg:** In a venue, in a theater, in a church, in a front room because we were able to count them. And we had 25,000 people make a profession of faith.

**James:** Now did y'all hear that -- 85,000 in the stadium, 350,000, and 25,000. You know Pentecost was a big deal at 3,000 saved.

So we're standing there. I think we were kind of looking down, Robert Morris and I and you, and I think we were amazed but I think we kind of had an idea. We just may see a lot of people come to Christ. And that's really what it's about.

**Greg:** It is. And Billy Graham has recently left us and gone to heaven and we've all been reminded of the powerful ministry he had for so many years in America -- his great preaching. I've read all these accolades and tributes to Billy and it's more than appropriate. But I wrote a little column and I titled it, "Do What Billy Did." And my focus was, look, you admire Billy Graham, you talk about what a great leader he was, why don't you do what Billy did? That's the greatest tribute you could play, or pay to him. What did Billy do? When it was all simplified, Billy proclaimed the gospel and he called people to Christ. That's what he was -- an evangelist. Yes, he was a chaplain to Presidents. Yes, he was in many ways America's pastor but if you were to ask him what his calling was and I got to know Billy as you did, he would say, "I'm called to be an evangelist." So no one is going to take Billy's place but I am following his example. I'm just trying to be one of many voices doing what he did which is bring the gospel without apology to our generation.

But here's the reality. Personal evangelism is what gets a person to a venue to hear what we call mass evangelism; I like to call it proclamation evangelism. But I think it is a cool tool because the hardest thing about sharing your faith is getting a conversation started. So here's a conversation starter: What are you doing June 10th? Why do you ask? Well, I'm going to or I'm going to watch something called Harvest America. What's that? Well, it's actually an event with some amazing music and it is about how to have a relationship with God. Okay, you just broke the ice.

**James:** And a lot of people are going. They're going to be so interested in seeing it that that big stadium, AT&T Stadium, where the Cowboys used to have a team, where Jerry Jones, okay, that big place, it is going to be full and you may be able to go, if you're like local you can go and we can go together or you can watch it and tell them where to watch.

**Greg:** You can send a link to someone. Text them, "watch this." Send it out on Twitter. We have all these social media tools at our website: [HarvestAmerica.com](http://HarvestAmerica.com). But the hardest thing about getting an evangelistic conversation going is just getting started. The objective to remember is if you want to win some be winsome -- which means just be a nice person. Start there. I like to call it "chummy." If you want to catch fish you chum. So what I do is I don't assault people with the gospel but I bring up things that could lead to a gospel conversation, just in your natural talking.

**James:** Really, you've always done that. You have a very natural way and it is supernatural enabling in the natural style of just being who you are. The thing about it is, you started young and you got your little Mickey Mouse pulpit I would have called it. I would have knocked it clear out in the middle of the congregation. But you just got the people's attention, you were growing a family. Now you stand up. It's a lot like Billy Graham. It is simplicity, it is clear, it is a message that is delivered not to try to impress you with the preacher but to point you to the person that will change your life.

Somehow Greg, and I know you're amazed, they behold him. They behold the lamb and they come to the lamb that was slain and they experience his light. That's what we're praying for. Listen! Listen! Pack the stadium. This is a chance for you to become a part of the body of Christ, of the great body of believers who are praying. You might be amazed at how many people you could bring from your community to that exciting moment in the presence of God.

Greg, wouldn't it be great, you have scores of churches, sometimes hundreds, wouldn't it be really cool if every church that believes the gospel, would say we're going to participate, we're going to pray. I tell you what, Greg. We're going to try to get some people out there to that stadium. And if we can't get them to the stadium or if they say, "Will you stay on the parking lot?" I'll tell you what. We might be the ones who set up the speakers out on the parking lot. We could just have it out there. You see, if you think creatively we can just touch everybody with the love of God.

**Greg:** As I'm proclaiming the gospel at AT&T Stadium or the artists are playing, you can have that happening in your church, you can have it in your front room, you can have your own Harvest America wherever you are and bring the gospel to people. You just need to set it up and get it going. People really do want to come and hear this.

I've been with Billy Graham. I once asked him, "Billy, if an older Billy could speak to a younger Billy, what would you say to yourself? Like what would be the thing that you would emphasize to a younger version of you?"

Really, without missing a beat he said, "I would preach more on the cross of Christ and the blood because that's where the power is."

You know there is power in the preaching of the cross. Really, when I get up there, it is such a simple message but that is by design. Believe it or not, it is more work to keep it streamlined and simple than it is to go off on all these rabbit trails that all of us preachers love to go off on. And I just get up there and think I'm a delivery boy, I'm here to give a simple message of the gospel to make it understandable and to preach for a decision and give people an opportunity to believe.

That's my job here. It is not to be a Bible expositor or a pastor, it is to be a delivery boy or an evangelist. That's what I do.

**James:** You do it and God is on you. You know what you're talking about, the power of the blood, I'm sitting here thinking, there's power, power, power in the blood. The wonder working power of the blood. I just kind of want to sow a thought. Wouldn't it be cool if some of these young groups would just take that and put it to say the rhythm of the day, there is power, there is power, power, power -- wonder working power in the blood. That could actually play right in there somewhere.

[Laughter]

Just give me a by-line saying, "Suggestion by James."

[Laughter]

**Greg:** That's right.

**James:** Listen to me. Here's what. Give them the website again if they want to go and get all kinds of information on everything related to it and how to set up. Where do they go? Harvest America?

**Greg:** HarvestAmerica.com. When you go there, it tells you how to be a host site. What it is; there is a video you can watch. And lots of social media, graphics you can download to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and just ways to host a party at your house, a Harvest America party.

Here's one way we describe it to people that helps them understand it. It is like the Super Bowl of evangelism. On Super Bowl Sunday all of America watches a game on TV, maybe has a party before or after. It is the same thing but instead of a football game it is a gospel event. So you invite people over, you make some food, you have a good time, invite your neighbors over or show it in your church on the big screen, however you choose to do it. There is a lot of ways to do it.

Then you just believe in the power of the gospel because God promises his word will not return void. So I think the main thing is we want to get our friends and our family members exposed to a simple proclamation of the gospel. I think a lot of people say they reject it and they don't even know what they're rejecting because they've never actually heard it before.

**James:** Do you like what you're hearing? You say, "Yes Lord." HarvestAmerica.com:

See what you can do to be involved.

You know you realize that what we do and our viewers do is we don't overlook the overlooked. And would you say that it is kind of an amazing thing when people would sit here and watch this and then knowing me and knowing Betty, well, James is about to show us somebody overlooked. But we're not going to overlook them. Greg, they don't overlook them. They look and they behold the least of these and realize -- and this is big -- if we touch them, we help them, we bless them, we've done it to Jesus. We get to bless the one who blesses us all. That's what we're about to do, all of you here in the studio, all of you at home. I want you to look in at a scene that only God's grace and the effect of the transforming power of the gospel and the love of God can totally affect in the most positive way. Watch.

### **On the mission field**

**Announcer:** A mother's love -- there is no power like it on earth. In every village our team visited in Angola they found mothers who worked tirelessly to keep their children from falling victim to the ravages of malnutrition even if it meant going without food for themselves.

>> These ladies that raised their hands, they sometimes go days without eating a meal at all.

**Announcer:** The sad reality is most of these mothers like Armalinda have had children die because of the lack of food. Isak Pretorius had a chance to visit with her and one of her surviving children.

**Isak:** The eyes that you're seeing on your screen right now are the eyes of a five-year old but they're looking to a soul that's seen more pain than most people see in a lifetime. A five-year old who has watched her precious mother bury two of her siblings, an eight-year old and a five-year old, buried in the last year simply because her mother just doesn't have enough food.

This village doesn't have the resources it needs. It doesn't have the ability to produce the food that they need to produce. They were telling us how they just eat pumpkin leaves and they make charcoal and try and sell some of their charcoal to be able to buy a little bit of food. But the food that they can buy, the food that they can provide for their families is not enough.

It is not because this mother, Armalinda is her name, it is not because she doesn't want to feed her children. It's not because she is lazy or she is not prepared to do what she needs to do. This mother will do absolutely anything to insure that she doesn't lose another two children. This village tells the story of what happens when you don't have Mission Feeding. It is the story of children who die a silent death -- life stolen because of famine, starvation.



Please help me right now to change that. Let's change the fact that mothers are suffering, that children are dying in this village simply because they don't have Mission Feeding. Let's bring them Mission Feeding, let's bring them life.

[Child's weak cry]

**James:** Do you understand that when Isak Pretorius, Peter Pretorius, our lead mission overseer of basically the continent of Africa, and we've just gotten an update of 13 million children lives saved by Mission Feeding. So when he is talking about Mission Feeding he is talking about locating areas. And who locates the areas? Missionaries filled with compassion, such compassion and love that they leave their comfort to go and be a comfort. And in compassion say we're going to rescue them and lift them out of this despair and hopelessness.

But they can only do it -- they can't do it just with compassion. They can't do it by just leaving and going there. They would be there with a broken heart and empty hands. Betty, the only way that Mission Feeding works is the missionaries find the need, they organize them, and they say, "Love is about to show up" because they're full of love. But like the missionaries said to me, "James, if you'll just go back and ask people, tell them we don't really need them to come over here. We really don't have time to take care of them. But if they would just send the support so we're not empty-handed and we can feed them and see a change."

I just heard 13 million lives saved and we've had more professions of faith in Christ in those same areas, winning more to Christ even. You say, "How is it you win them to the Lord?" Because they've seen the power of the gospel and the love and the willingness to put your arms around the suffering.

So Betty, we've been picking people up now for over 20 years and rescuing the perishing, caring for the dying. When I say we, it's you because you're the ones -- the missionaries are vitally important but they're empty handed. They're just brokenhearted. They weep while they die like the mothers. But we can change all that.

You simply go online right now or you dial that number that's always a prayer line and now it is a life line and you take your bankcard and you make the best gift you can possibly make. But keep this in mind, in Mission Feeding -- because Mission Feeding works, it is effective, a gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 we're able to feed three, five or ten children for the next months. Did you hear what I said? \$30, \$50, \$100 -- \$1,000 and oh, dear God, how I pray those who can do that, it sounds so big but some can do it. \$1,000 we can feed 100 kids; we, being the missionaries and we, who are willing to reach out in love and touch those precious people with the love of God,

not in word only but in deed, in demonstration.

Would you right now go online? Go get your bankcard, dial the number or go online. If you can give \$1000, \$100, please do it. We've got -- listen to me -- we've got 400,000 in need right now already located basically organized in what we call Mission Feeding centers. Would you right now make the gift God puts on your heart? If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call the number please and tell us you're putting it in the mail because we need to know. We need to tell the missionaries its coming. The help and support is coming because love you share.

Thank you so much for doing it. We have some gifts to send you to bless you in your spiritual walk and growth. They'll be meaningful to you.

### **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**

**In the studio**

**James:** I'm looking at the *Proverbs Power*; the power of wisdom. Our founders called it "divine providence," the guidance of that; wisdom from above. Proverbs is just a truth that is so transforming in its effect. We'll send it to you. You've seen the information to say thank you. And Betty and I say thanks in behalf of mothers and children and lives.

And then I want to remind you the *Jesus Revolution* book will be out in June; but the Harvest crusade, June 10th. Start praying now. [HarvestAmerica.com](http://HarvestAmerica.com).

**Greg:** That's correct.

**James:** And they'll give you information on how you can set up an outreach right there in your own community, your church, your home, your business. So consider it. Start praying.

Do you appreciate Greg Laurie and appreciate what he's doing? Thank you for watching.