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Week 50: Fall Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Chris Turner #2

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James. We have one of our six grandsons with us today. I'm proud of him.

James: We just keep having grandkids; we've got 11 grandchildren, five granddaughters, six grandsons. And now we have four great grandchildren; we have three girls and one boy.

Betty: It just keeps getting better and better!

James: Right now the girls are outnumbering the boys. I'm sure all these parents -- by the way, just for your information. The 11 grandchildren, eight of them, married as of November of this year. Here's the beautiful thing. We think they're all great grandchildren. We have great-grandchildren now but I told our grandchildren, you're all great; all 11 of you have been great. So we've had great grandchildren since all of you have been born, each one of you. But the thing about it is they married spouses that are absolutely incredible people. We think they're wonderful Christians, and love the Lord, and they love each other and they're having fun.

It's just an answer to prayer, Betty, for us. An answered prayer is sitting here. Our grandson Chris Turner is here. Would you welcome Chris Turner to *LIFE Today*?

[Cheers & Applause]

Chris, we had a real serious program with you talking about mom being in heaven. We lost our daughter, our youngest daughter and it was tough. You spoke at the funeral, all three of you did.

Willie George, pastor, think about this, Church on the Move in Oklahoma, he became our daughter's pastor and our grandchildren up there, the three grandchildren. One of them is Chris. And Chris is here. Chris, you all spoke at the funeral. The children did. And Willie said, "Never in my life..." I think he said then he'd been 40 years, I think he said ministering, counting his ministry. Before the church even started, he had the Willie George Ministries reaching young people. He said he had never seen anything like the way you all just got up and shared about what you'd seen through your mother's life.

But you went on a journey to where the Lord became so much more real to you. Now would you have ever thought that you would end up right back in Broken Arrow where you kids grew up? And there you are now, a pastor of a satellite branch church, Church on the Move that's there where Willie George started it. Now he's transferred the leadership to his son Whit. You feel like that's a very positive thing; right? You love Willie like crazy but you're real thrilled about Whit.

Chris: I love the church I get to be a part of. Obviously, it is a place where my family has been able to invest a lot of our lives. It is so cool to be able to go back and serve at that church, for Brittney and me to be able to give back. She's been attending the church there for about five years now, for me to just be able to go back and serve under that leadership. I love our lead pastor. Whit is doing an incredible job. I really like where we're headed.

James: You were a real sports nut. Y'all won state in football. Got in the playoffs all the time. Did great in baseball. It looked like that's where you were going to be. You went back and helped coach there at the school. How in the world did you suddenly find yourself moving over into a pastoral type role and being a campus pastor? How do you explain that?

Chris: I can't explain my journey from going to school for business and leaving with a finance degree, going to coach and teach at a high school, and then suddenly ending up a pastor after. It's been an incredible five-year journey ending up where I am. I think God has just orchestrated my life in an unbelievable way. I've tried to be willing to what he's called me to do even when things don't make sense on paper. God has just been able to move me exactly where he wants me

to be. And to be able to go and help pastor a church and start a new campus, new people, and really help lead them has been a true honor. I don't take it lightly.

Betty: When you say new church -- it's really new!

[Laughter]

Chris: We're just a couple months in and so it's exciting and terrifying all at the same time.

James: Tell everybody where it is located in the Tulsa area near Broken Arrow.

Chris: So it's in Broken Arrow, in the heart of Broken Arrow, in downtown B.A. It's kind of Broken Arrow scene, kind of a revitalized downtown. In fact, it's become actually nationally renowned for the way it's accomplished that. So it is a growing, thriving, kind of trendy area for Tulsa.

James: Where are you located at? Where's the church?

Chris: It's in a Broken Arrow public school building; it's their performing arts center. So we lease that. We have a great group of people that set up and tear down at 5:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We have a great team there.

James: What do you want to see happen to the people who come to your church? You grew up in Church on the Move. You saw a Christian school where a pastor really wanted kids to really be inspired. Your mom, our daughter Robin was so excited about you all going to a school where she saw continual influence. And she was a very active mom with all the kids; wasn't she? She helped the cheerleaders. She helped the ball team. Your dad was very supportive; has been such an awesome father.

What do you want to happen in the church where you're ministering to people and you look at their situation. Do you see a lot of dysfunction in families that touches your heart? Do you see

a lot of people groping and looking? Or do you see people who are like serious seekers? What are you looking at and how do you relate to them?

Chris: I think one thing that our lead pastor said whenever we launched our campus was he said to the church, "We don't need another place to attend." In this area of the country, especially, the Bible belt, there is plenty of churches to attend. Our goal is to simply take people to just a deeper walk with Christ and really want to see people transformed.

Our vision that you can see, if you just look at our church is we want to introduce people to the real Jesus. What we mean by that is we don't want this just to be about religion. We don't want this to just be about church attendance. We want to help people really take steps on their journey to knowing God and growing in their relationship with him. So for us, what we want to see is that. We want to see movement toward Christ. We want to see real discipleship happen.

It's amazing that God has sent us some incredible people. We're trying to, just keeping our prayers and letting God trust us with those people because we're really stewards as pastors. These are God's people. We just want to continue to pray that God will send us those people that are hurting, that are broken, that are struggling. We want to see those people come to know Christ.

James: We prayed for all of our children and grandchildren to find the right person to fall in love with. So we kind of tracked your journey. It wasn't like we weren't praying for you. Mom's gone, we know mom is looking down here while we're praying. Here's this girl that is just a great praise worship leader and singer, what attracted you to her? She is just this singer you see all the sudden. What caused this little connection to happen?

Chris: Well, I was volunteering in youth ministry which is where you go if you're single. You hope to meet another person around your age that is serving people slightly younger than you. So Brittney led worship that night at our youth. I had actually joked with my sister. I met Brittney at this like church picnic thing a couple of years before when I was still at Baylor. I joked with Callie, I said, "When I get back from school I'm going to marry her." Just said it

like just...

James: Well, they were working together.

Chris: Yeah! They were sharing an office. I mean she blew me off several times. I was kind of like, "Who are you to blow me off" type of thing.

[Laughter]

So anyways, after a service on a Wednesday night I just asked her out. She was like, "Yeah, I'll check my schedule." I was like, "All right. Well, great. Put it down for Tuesday." So we ended up going out. And that was pretty much it.

James: Was it just her singing? Is that what did it?

Chris: I don't know what it was. Maybe it was how reluctant she was to go on a date with me. I guess I just found that as a challenge. She showed up an hour late to our first date. It was almost over immediately.

[Laughter]

James: You know your dad tells us that she reminds him of his wife, our daughter. That she is pretty good at keeping you in step.

Chris: Oh, she keeps me in line. Yeah!

James: You know what? It looks like the two of you really enjoy it. It's been beautiful to watch. Do you find yourself with your little girl, already beginning to think, I sure want to pray for her whole journey? Because we started with our children when they were babies; began to pray, God, direct their steps. You know all of the family, you know our kids. Wouldn't you say God beautifully directed their steps?

Chris: Absolutely. I think that's what's so cool about God. We didn't even know, Brittney and I, we didn't even know if we were going to be able to have kids just with -- we knew some things going in that may cause some problems there.

James: Some physical challenges.

Chris: Yeah! Some physical challenges. It was amazing just to get Ella out of that. So just totally shocked us. And it is so cool because even my own mom was a shock.

Betty: A surprise to us.

James: A total surprise baby. We could not have his mom.

Chris: And it is crazy because I really believe God is a God of restoration. And for us, and for me personally, Ella has been a little bit of that. It's a little bit of restoration. Maybe you lose someone you shouldn't have but then you gain someone you shouldn't have. That's how it's been for me.

Betty: And I think God can turn real sadness and heartache into joy unspeakable. It's worth that relationship with him.

James: I want to ask, what do you remember when you think about mom? What did she leave that made a real impression on you that you know you're going to carry through in your ministry and all you do with your own family?

Chris: The thing I think, the best thing that she instilled in us was just a great sense of diligence in her faith. Her circumstances never caused her to waiver. God was God. So on the flip side of that, maybe being a little appalled that she did pass away, God is God. That circumstance, my parents did such an incredible job instilling in us to not let other circumstances and people circumstances that you can't control affect your faith. You're on your own personal

journey and if we're not careful, especially when it is someone that close to us, we like to apply other people's stories to us.

There is some answers I don't know. There are some things I don't know. There are some things even in the Bible if you're not careful, you start to apply their stories to you and that's not what it's really all about. All of that is pointing to God. All of that is giving you a glimpse of the character of who he is. So for me, the biggest take away for my mother is her incredible diligence in every season. God was God to her.

James: Let me close by just telling you this, Chris, we love you. We're so proud of you. Would you say thanks to Chris for being willing to share? I believe Chris is gifted in so many ways -- he's brilliant. God is going to use him in a mighty way -- he already is, the whole family.

Callie, you're a doll. You're so much like your mom. And what a great husband you've got there. Grant, I'm rejoicing with you. Cody, I know you look like Papaw a lot and it's got to be a tough load to carry but I sure love you buddy. And Hollie, you're so precious, we just love you all. Church on the Move, gosh, anybody looking for a church in the Tulsa area, go to Church on the Move. Go to the branch there in Broken Arrow and see Chris and the family.

When Robin left, when she realized it doesn't look like I'm going home from the hospital, we all, the family was all there. The nurses and people commented, "We've never seen a family like this." We've never been in anything like this. The love that filled the room, it was just indescribable. But I looked at my little daughter and those big black eyes looking up at me, and it was one of the most moving things I ever saw, Chris, I was kneeling down by Robin holding her little hand and Willie, he just nearly lost it. He just nearly collapsed watching me with my daughter telling her good-bye.

Here's what I want you to hear. When we were looking at Robin, and she is looking up at me with her big black eyes, it was like she said, "You know, dad," she wasn't talking. I could just read it. "Dad, this is not the way I thought it would be. It isn't the way it ought to be." Pretty soon she wasn't able to look up even communicate and then she was gone.

Now listen to me. Jack Hayford said, "I've seen two visions where I could see vividly." Jack Hayford saw Robin go into heaven. He told me how meticulously and carefully he wrote the vision. It was incredible. One of the things that really got me, he said, "Robin had a look of bewilderment. Maybe not confusion but bewilderment on her face until she got closer and closer to the gates of heaven." He said, "I saw her countenance brighten." "And I was glad when they said, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" And he said, "James, I saw her go in. It was the most beautiful sight. And then I saw her look at all the other people that were coming." He said, "I looked in the distance and I could see others coming."

Chris, when I saw that, I said, "God, let us invite everyone on this earth to experience the relationship with Jesus that they too can say, 'I was glad when they said, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" I want it to be millions. I don't want you to miss it. I don't want anybody to miss it.

I don't know how heavy your heart is in some way but I will tell you if I could heal your heart, I would walk out and I would take your broken heart and I would heal it because God's love is in me. And there are healing hands and great surgeons, gifts from God but there is a God who wants to heal your heart. He wants to hold you forever. And you'll be glad when they say, "Let's go into the house of the Lord" because you've experienced God, the Father of that house.

Father, I pray this for everyone watching that they could come to know you and love you with all their heart; in Jesus' name.

Chris, we know that you told us in the earlier program that when you went to the mission field it was a life-changing experience. Our viewers, we're going to ask them again to help. You'll see you there where children are dying. If these viewers will help, those children won't die, they will live. Let's be praying. I want you to watch and then I want you to do what God impresses you to do please.

On the mission field

James: Wait a minute! I can't get them to stop pressing in on us so I can even get to the soup. These people are hungry! I mean the absolute desperation -- I can't even feed them.

Announcer: Unfortunately, too many children know what happens when the food runs out. They know it will quickly become a desperate situation where they are fighting to survive. Children and their parents end up scavenging for anything to eat to fight off their gnawing hunger pains. Sometimes the children will even eat things that aren't even considered food just to try and feel better.

Bruce: I'm sitting here with this little boy and when I came in I noticed he was sitting here and he's eating dirt. He's trying to fill his little stomach and he's trying to take that hunger away. It won't. I've never seen a child eat dirt.

Announcer: The impact of this type of food crisis is particularly devastating to the youngest victims. Once the effects of severe malnutrition set in desperate parents will try and walk for miles to get help in a clinic.

Chris: This is why we need your continued support for mission feeding because we do know she's been here about a week now and if you can imagine she's gotten better, she's improved. So if you can imagine a condition worse than this. Dear heavenly Father, Lord, I pray over this little girl. I ask that you heal her, in the name of Jesus. I ask that we help all these kids; in Jesus' name.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Chris, we were all in the room with your mom when she was leaving. If somebody had been able to walk into the room and say, "Robin, here," and give her something and she is perfect, wouldn't that have been an awesome thing? And we would have all rejoiced. We know she is perfect now thanks to the Lord. But Chris, there is a perfect cure for those little children. We can get to them before they get them into that last ditch effort in those clinics which you pay for too. You are the ones that provide those clinics.

But what we know works, Betty is we feed them where we find the need and we organize them. The missionaries are so marvelous. And then we begin to feed them the nourishing porridge that is really scientifically developed by caring individuals to meet the exact need and it is the

miracle cure. It works. It doesn't fail. It works!

Betty: We can keep them from having to take their precious babies to the clinic for one last resort, one last little bit of hope. As I think about those mothers and those children look in the eyes of their mothers and they say, "Why can't I have something to eat?" A mother wants to provide every need for her child and it breaks their hearts when they can't. But they need our help. We can make the difference. We can get the food to them and they can grow up healthy and wonderful children, blessings to their mothers. So please help us. Please help us feed as many as needed. We love you for that!

James: Today, we had our little granddaughter, Chris's little girl that's so beautiful, little Ella. We got to feed her. She just smiled. And just thinking, we were giving her what -- we could tell when she got hungry. She made it known. And she was so happy when she got food. It was such a joy to us to have a part in that.

Listen to me. This is the thing I want you to realize. You're reaching out with the arms and hands of Jesus. We are his body. You're actually reaching out and lifting up those little children, and then you give them what they need. It is the perfect cure. It is not like praying for some miracle drug or some pharmaceutical miracle that will solve it. This is a nutritional reality. And we've been doing it now for 30 years. Millions and millions of children's lives saved. Now they are, many of them, leaders in their communities -- many of them are teachers -- many of them are ministers and witnesses for Christ. Millions of them! And it all came because somebody like you watching *LIFE Today* said I'm going to take care of three children or five or ten; \$30, \$50, or \$100 we can care for three, five or ten children the next months.

Now we just have a short time left to raise the funds for the 400,000 children we've reached out to now and we've got in place. We told them we're going to care for them but it all depends upon your love, God's love through you. Would you right now please get up and get your bankcard or get a check? Make it to *LIFE*. Or take that card and go online or dial the number and just use that bankcard like a check and make the gift God puts on your heart. You can give \$1,000 and feed 100 kids. That would be wonderful! \$100 will feed ten. Whatever you can do. I

always ask you to think big. I mean if you could touch 100 children do it. But remember, if it is three and that's what you can do, look what it does for those three and for the mothers.

Thank you so much. We have some gifts we're going to send you to say thank you. One of them is the great story of the Mission Feeding and the founder, Peter Pretorius. It is an incredible book. You won't be able to put it down. Thank you so much right now for going online or dialing the number.

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.

Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach you can save lives by feeding and caring for children currently suffering in parts of Angola, Mozambique, and South Sudan. With previous reserves gone and Mission Feeding helping in areas with severe crop failure, we urgently need your support to replenish food supplies to reach the 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. With your gift of any amount we'll send you *Death-Defying Faith*, the extraordinary life of miracle man, Peter Pretorius. This autobiography, completed just days before his unexpected death, chronicles the thrill-seeking adventures of missionary, Peter Pretorius. You will love reading how God took this ordinary man and performed extraordinary miracles throughout all of Africa.

With your gift of \$100 or more, request the beautiful "Faith and Hope" pen set; two beautifully crafted pens featuring the key words of Hebrews 11:1; a key verse for every believer especially when facing adversity, trials and challenges.

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 gift online today!

End of clip

On the mission field

Chris: This is my first time overseas. This is my first time leaving the country. To say there's been some eye-opening experiences and some levels and degrees of shock would be an understatement. The malnutrition clinics, those have been by far some of the toughest things I've seen. Looking at the mother of a child and just knowing what it feels like to be in that position of helplessness is the hardest part. There is nothing that you can do right then and there and you want to fix it.

So to be able to see the productive feedings that L.O.I. has helped provide to these villages so we keep them out of the clinics is good to see. And just because you're not here handing a bowl to a kid doesn't mean that you're not actually feeding them. Because these kids can't survive without you. We can't be here without you to help them. When you see the kids smile when they get food and you see them happy and you see them so grateful, they're grateful for you.

End of clip

In the studio

James: I want to just say thanks for letting me kind of open up and tell you a little bit more about our sweetheart daughter and to have her son here, oldest son and the other beautiful children, Cody and Callie, I love y'all so much. To all of you, just thank you.

We want to send you *Death Defying Faith*. Hopefully, we'll live that way. Boy, you sure have blessed us. And you have blessed me by letting me know I can open up my heart to you. And

you'll help me hold my heart, my wife's heart. You've had your arms around us a long time and you put your arms around a lot of people and we say thank you.

Would you join us saying thanks to Chris Turner for being here? Thank you, Bud. I hope a lot of people will go visit your church. Thank all of you. God bless you!