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Week 47: Fall Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Ann and Isak Pretorius, Jackie Vorster #1

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to welcome Peter Pretorius' family. This is the book, this is his story. It was finished right before Peter went to heaven: *Death-Defying Faith*. When Betty and I say that God used Peter Pretorius to not only change our lives personally, you think about this, I'm living in crusades, coliseums and stadiums, God's already told me I'm to sit down by this woman and help try to call the family into the family room, the family of God, and help them get to know the Father and do his will.

Right then God showed us the mission fields of the world through Peter Pretorius. When I say it was a transformative moment, that's not an exaggeration. It not only changed us but it changed this ministry. We began to, as Joel Osteen's dad said before he died, you brought the mission fields of the world into our homes.

You know what was amazing? When people saw the effectiveness of love-filled missionaries like Peter Pretorius and all those he worked with, they were moved to say, "We're going to undergird it. We're going to share the love of God and the Word of God not just in word but in deed."

And you have been miracle workers. Well, we've got the family here. We've got Ann and we've got Isak and we have Jackie. Would you welcome Ann, Isak, and Jackie to *LIFE Today*? You've been here many times. Most of the time it's been with dad. I know this is a tough time. I know that only God can give you the grace to walk on but we're going forward. I didn't exaggerate, did I, Ann?

Ann: Not at all.

James: We're going to go forward; aren't we? Jackie, we're going forward. You all are involved, you know what's going to happen.

I want to show a tribute. You remember Carlton Hurdle, our seven-foot cameraman. He is awesome. I'm telling you, he was there on the first trip when everything changed. And he wrote a poem about your dad. I want you to listen to it as you see what Carlton Hurdle is talking about in this poem. Watch it.

Begin video clip

[Music]

Announcer: Consider now my servant who stands before the throne
For every child he met in need he treated as his own
A man of great conviction, faithfulness and love
Each face he saw reflected his savior from above

Peter: If you are in this world, then God loves you.

Announcer: Millions of my children have seen me in your eyes
Reflecting my compassion, responding to their cries
They hungered and you fed them
They thirst and you gave drink
When naked you would clothe them
Not stopping once to think
How many miles you'd travel to be their truest friend
You and your wife together, their every need attend

Your walk with me was noted by presidents and kings

And yet you only noticed when little ones would sing
The testimony that you've left will resonate through time
Generations yet to come shall know that you were mine
Your time on earth is over
The race you've run is won
The least of these will join in song
You're home, my son
Well done!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Will you just applaud the glory and grace of God that we saw in Peter?

[Applause]

And Peter, I think you're watching. We want you to know we love you, buddy. We want you to rejoice with a great cloud of witnesses that all of you witness here.

Ann, I know you were touched by that. I know all the family members are. But our viewers want to know, how are you? How are you doing?

Ann: I'm doing good, James. The passion that drove Peter fell on me in such a powerful way in the moment he passed that it's just driving me and motivating me every single day to see the multiplication that he dreamed of in his heart. He built such an amazing foundation over the years of ministry that we worked hand in hand together doing everything together. And that foundation is so secure, it is so strong, it is so powerful in reaching those who don't know Jesus yet.

And also, in those who are in need, on the humanitarian side, in the provision of water,

the provision of nutrition, the development of the people. I feel such an honor and a privilege that for 42 years I was at this man's side. He taught me well. I'm ready to run the race and to watch the next generation taking the multiplication of what needs to come because that's the return on the investment that he made with his life. The kingdom of God deserves that return on the investment. We're going to reach so many millions more as a result of everything that he did. So that makes me do well because I'm so driven by it.

James: You're undergirded by the prayers and love of all the viewers of life. Peter Pretorius paid all of you a great compliment. It wasn't a compliment to me. He said, "James, I know I can call you and tell you whatever we need. I know when you tell your viewers they will meet the need."

You are such special people. So don't you ever doubt that. Just know more than ever -- more than ever -- I'm not too old, you're not too old, and we've got a lot of give. You're not too young, we've got a lot of to give.

Isak, you know you could have been a rugby player for the country and you said, "I want to go be with my dad." And you've developed into where you see this great resource I'm talking about. But what's your heart saying right now when Dad's gone and you still see the continent. I remember when you came and said, "I'm tired of burying our children. I'm tired of burying our kids over here. Help us." What's going on in your heart?

Isak: That was a dream Dad and I shared together. Many times we sat in places that if we didn't know better we would have maybe said they were God-forsaken because children -- more died there than lived. And yet the thing that we would so often talk about was our dream -- the dream that we could travel on our continent one day and not see children die, see people not just survive but thrive. That's what's burning in my heart. Because if my dad taught me anything in my life -- and he taught me pretty much everything I know -- but the two greatest things he taught me was to love the poor and to trust God. But he also taught me that if you'll combine those two and if you'll trust God to

love the poor, that we can transform our continent.

That's what I believe we've got to dedicate our lives to. Dad showed that one life can change so many. He met Jesus in his 30s and then he gave his life. He literally committed his life. And for the rest of his life until three weeks before he passed away, he was standing on a platform in the Congo preaching the gospel as fervently as he ever had, with as much faith and belief and conviction as what ever had. So I see that in Dad's life the example was set that one life can change the world. Because if we'll stand and say, "I'll do what I can do. I'll give -- what can I give?" Dad could only give one thing. He could give his life so he gave it. But what God did was God anointed that life. God came and took what was an ordinary man and allowed him to do extraordinary things. More than 12 million people prayed the prayer of salvation because one man said, "I'll go! I'll go to the ends of the earth. I'll go where it is uncomfortable. I'm risk my life."

Why? Because the gospel of Jesus Christ has to be preached to these people. Because the gospel has to be shared with them in love. A bowl of food a day transforms a child's life, it rewrites their future.

That's the other part about that one life. Dad taught me that if we will have the courage to believe in "the one" -- see we all want to change the world, James. I think every person somewhere inside of them has that urge to change things, to make a difference, to live a life of significance. But how do we change the world? We don't change it by going out and trying to change the world. We change it by changing every life we come in contact with; by meeting the need of that individual person, whatever that need might be, by trusting God that he'll use us and allow us the privilege of changing that life.

Because when I change your life, I change your world. When I change your world, I empower you to go and change somebody else's. That, for me, is the vision. That's what we've got to do.

James: That's the good news.

Jackie, what do you want to see happen now? You go oversee so much, sharing what God's doing all over the world, wanting people all over the world to know we can have a part of impacting the world one life at a time with the love of God. And not just in word but in deed, in action. What do you believe for? What do you want to see?

Jackie: I think for me as well, I just want to see expansion based on everything that my dad built. My mom and dad together built this incredibly beautiful organization that has got such a heart purpose. Everything that the organization has ever done has been for others. The greatest thing for me, he was my dad and he was this incredible man but he was my dad. And to me, he was such an incredible dad. His love for others is the same to, to not see a child suffer or to see a mother have to face the loss of her own child; that same heart, that tenderness in his heart, is the heart that he had for us as kids. It was the heart that he nurtured in us too. So I think all of us kids, that is our heart. We don't want to rest while there are people that don't know about Jesus and who don't have food to feed their families. I think it is such a passion inside all of us.

And for me, I want to see that work continue because it is the work that he labored for, and he gave himself selflessly but it is God's work and that work continues. My dad loved Jesus with every fiber of his being and he served Jesus with his life. That's what I want. I want that our lives continue to serve Jesus and continue to have the heart of God because God cares for each and every child, every family, and every person who doesn't even know him. I think that's the significance in the work that we do and that we need to continue to do.

Because often people will say to me, "Well, what does it really matter? It is a drop in the bucket. How can it be significant?" But to that child who is hungry or to that person who just felt so empty and lost, it is massive -- it is massive! It's changed everything for them.

So that heart drive is what makes me want to build on the legacy that has already been created and to be able to expand and to reach more -- reach more people with salvation,

reach more people with the help that they need for their families. I think as a family, it doesn't matter what's happening, we'll never give up. We'll never stop because it is just something that's ingrained in us and I'm so grateful to my dad for that.

Ann: I'd just like to read a little piece out of his book because I feel it is just so significant in what happened in him when we talk about his heart. It was after he had been deserted for ten days, lost in the Pambarra area, forgotten. We didn't know where he was. I didn't know if maybe he had died there. There were no news forecast. He was just gone. When he finally was retrieved by an aircraft coming in and rescuing him, he writes here in the book, "From the air I looked down on Pambarra and I saw that it looks so peaceful and picturesque. A subtropical paradise of little thatched huts. It was only when you got close that you could see the suffering that lay beneath. I knew the same was true of human beings. If you want to help them, you need to get close enough to see and understand what they're going through."

I think that summarizes so much of Peter's heart. He got close enough to the people that he touched that he could feel their heart and he could minister to their heart. What a privilege that has been for us to work alongside him and to capture that heart and to experience that heart because I believe that is Christ within.

James: We're going to pray for you. Father, we just pray together here as a family for everybody right now that feels overlooked. Show them how precious they are to you, how much you love them and show them how much love you want to flow through them like a river. Just make this a life changing moment for them as they're watching; in Jesus' name.

Would you just say, "God, I give you the clay of my life. Shape me into a vessel of honor, a channel through which you can flow your love like this man, Peter Pretorius?" He was a tobacco farmer and a race car driver -- the elite. He just left everything and went to the poor to put his life there. That's where we met him. It changed our world. It's changed millions of people -- saved millions of lives.

As you know, family, because your dad said it over and over, Isak, you watched it, Jackie watched it. Our viewers enabled Peter to do what he was doing and all the missionaries. And right now, more than ever, because we're in our feeding emphasis right now, where twice a year we ask all of our viewers to feed right now 400,000 children that you all have located. The missionaries that your dad trained, we've got them and now we're asking you to feed them. We're going to share the gospel with them. We're going to send you Peter's book to say thanks and some other beautiful gifts that we're going to tell you about.

But here's the thing. I want you to watch right now and just say, "God, what do you want me to do?" Because your gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 or \$1,000, or whatever you can do, it changes scores of lives. \$30 changes three lives -- we save their lives! That's what we're able to do. We're able to feed them. There are 400,000 of them already located that we're saying, "We're going to feed you" but the "we" is us. Would you do it? Watch closely and just say, "God, use me! Let me be that channel you flow your love freely through." We just prayed that. Let it happen. Watch closely and prayerfully.

On the mission field

Peter: Have any of you mothers here ever lost a child because of malnutrition, of a lack of food? And if you've lost more than one, then show us how many you've lost by showing us how many fingers.

Oh, my God! I mean look at that. That woman has lost five. That one has lost five. Seven! Oh, Jesus! I mean nearly all of them!

I think it is beyond words. I think it is absolutely horrible! I mean I struggle even for words to be able to explain what feelings are in my heart and I've never lost one of my kids, I've never lost one of my grandkids. And I just think if one of my precious little grandkids, if I lost them, what it would mean. And imagine if I lost them to starvation and I couldn't actually do anything about it because I didn't have any food; I didn't have any means to be able to help my child, and watch that child die in front of me.

Well, this woman watched ten of them die in front of her. Please, James, let's do this and let's do it now!

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty just said, "Peter's grandchildren are up here in the audience and they're weeping." I understand. And I'm just, inside my heart I'm praying, God, I know Peter, I believe is at the right hand of the Father praying. I wish we'd see the greatest outpouring of love we've ever seen. I've prayed for many years, God, I want to see the day when every single person watching will extend your hands and just do what they can. Could just give a cup of water? Could you just give a child food?

We did lose a child and she was precious. You look at all those precious women. "Well, they just lost a child. They're just poor." That baby was their whole life. Our daughter, we have three children, 11 grandchildren, now four great grandkids and we just love them all. We lost one. You don't tell us it's not a big deal. We've had a couple of children lost in the womb. It tore up our family.

Would you right now please, just say, "God, what do you want me to do?" I'm simply telling you this, we can feed three, five or ten children for \$30, \$50, or \$100 a month. We can feed 100 children for \$1,000; we can feed 1000 children for \$10,000. Would you please -- would you just help us? It's what we've been doing a long time.

And by the way, you say, "What if we get all of those fed?" Well, then we'll find some more because we've always made it clear, when we ask you to do something or accomplish a goal, if we accomplish that goal and we're going to invest money that goes over that in equally important outreaches. And some of the outreaches don't seem big to people but it's the biggest thing those people have ever known. We don't have time to talk about all of them but we'll help them. So that's what you do.

By the way, every day we come on this program to try to give you food, spiritual food and water because you're the main object. We want to pour God's love all over you. But listen to me, we have a motive. It is called a kingdom motive, a kingdom purpose. We want to see God flow through you his purpose. In other words, you let him do something in you and then you allow him to do something through you for others. We want to inspire you and thank God many of you have been inspired. You continue to inspire us. That's why Peter Pretorius could say, "James, I can always call you." Why? Because you and Betty are great? He knew we cared. We said we'll come over here and stay. He said, "Don't! Go back and get the people to help us so we can stay, and so we're not empty handed." Well, that's what we've done. Bless God, you have blessed the Lord and blessed these children.

So right now, every single one of you, I want you to go online, or just go get your checkbook and write a check, make it to *LIFE*. You give the gift God really laid on your heart. He laid it on your heart to do it. Or you can call that number right now that's always a prayer line paid for by love for you to pray and somebody to pray for you. I want you to call and say, "Here's what we're mailing. Here's my bankcard number, I want to make a gift today."

Father, I pray every single person will be moved by your spirit. And Lord, if somebody is saying, "I don't have anything I can give." Well then Lord, just let them see the importance of their prayers, that you would move mountains of compassion and expressions of your love right now all over the world.

Would you please just do what God put on your heart? Call the number, go online, and make the gift. You're giving the greatest gift, you're giving the gift of life because of the love of God. Thank you 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.

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

In the studio

James: I just feel like we've experienced today with our audience here and the viewers and the Pretorius family, we've just experienced a very precious moment. I think the great cloud of witnesses are rejoicing. I kind of feel like Jesus says to his dad, look at all those

people loving their neighbor. Look at them loving the least of these. Look at them, Dad!

The Pretorius family is going to be back with us. Peter is going to be looking in with a great cloud of witnesses. Don't miss the program day after tomorrow -- don't miss it! We're going to send you this incredible book, *Death-Defying Faith*. Miracle healings and I'm talking about blind eyes. Betty and I saw it the first time we went. We saw a kid that didn't have any pupils healed.

One of the greatest stories is a mother brought her little blind son every night for an entire week, he never got the eyes. And the last night Peter had him, the story is in here, he kind of opened the eyelids and he didn't have any eyes. He said, "God, we need a creative miracle!" Bang! The little boy had beautiful brown eyes and he could see perfectly. Well, of course, the whole city was turned inside out. It's New Testament miracles. I took all my Baptist deacon buddies over there and let them see. They all went home totally changed. Their churches changed. They said, "It's incredible! Everything God says is still today."

I want to thank the Pretorius family, for Dad, and for all of you, thank you. Would you say thanks to God and to the Pretorius family? And thank all of you for helping. Thank you for your prayers.

Don't missed the next program. Don't miss Sheila tomorrow. You watch *LIFE Today*. Tell your friends to watch because we're going to share *LIFE Today* every day!