

11/22/18

Week 47: Fall Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Ann and Isak Pretorius, Jackie Vorster

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Thank you so much for joining us. James and I are so blessed to have some of our dearest friends, our missionary family with us today. Will you welcome them?

James: We are going to give you that opportunity to welcome the Pretorius family. But I want to mention this book, *Death-Defying Faith*. Peter Pretorius is in the presence of the Lord. Earlier this week, if you didn't see it, you go online to *LIFE Today* and you go back and you watch because the glory of God filled this place.

This is a time of thanksgiving. I want to say to you, thank you for the love of God you poured out all over the world, and especially in harmony with the heart of Peter Pretorius who is with the Father right now. And he and the Lord Jesus, and God the Father, they're looking down here. I know they're praying because Jesus is at the right hand of the Father today making intercession; praying for all the people we can touch if we'll be sensitive to the Father's heart. And if we'll have the kind of faith and love that Peter Pretorius literally lived out his life changing our lives and the lives of millions of other people, and *LIFE Today* and *LIFE Outreach*.

So the family is here. I want you to welcome, all of you here, would you welcome Ann and Isak and Jackie to *LIFE Today*? This is the Pretorius family.

[Applause]

We're going to talk some about this book, about *Death-Defying Faith* and Peter had it. Okay, Ann, tell us what kind of pops out in your mind when you think about this man you lived with

over 40 years as his wife. And then you're holding his book that is a treasure because he finished it just before he left us. We just barely got it finished before he goes into the presence of God forever. What's in your heart?

Ann: James, the book had to be written because the story had to be told. I think the desire -- the strongest desire in Peter's heart to capture the book was to show people that God can use a very ordinary person to do the most extraordinary things. Because in the whole walk of our ministry, Peter was forever astounded at what God was doing. The fact that God would use him, he counted that such an honor and a privilege every day of his life. And he loved Jesus so much and just wanted Jesus to use him to reach out to others because that's the heart that captured him when he came to salvation.

Now you must remember, and it is recorded in the first part of the book, I knew the man before salvation. I was married to him for a little while before we got saved. He was a man looking for some form of fulfillment in life; a race car driver, flying airplanes, doing all kinds of crazy things because he was looking for that fulfillment. Little did he know that that true fulfillment can only be found, number one in receiving the indwelling spirit of God, that creative, powerful spirit that divinely enables us to go way beyond ourselves. And secondly, the impact that it has to change the life of another.

Peter said it over and over again that the only true fulfillment in life was to change the life of another. When we say "another" it sounds like just one or two but the impact that his life had was on so many millions of people.

James: Millions and millions of people without question!

Ann: There is no way we can record it. And that's the legacy that needs to continue. I'm so grateful that it's passing on to our children and our grandchildren. Because our grandchildren in their own ways are already looking to tell people about this work, show people how easy it is to change the life of a child in need, and the heart and the vision that God planted in him is so powerful and so strong.

Just a couple of weeks before Peter passed, he was determined as ever and he was up in the Congo for three days. When he preached his last sermon what he preached was "The God in Us," the power that is invested in us when we surrender our lives. That's what he was ministering to lead us from the rural areas in the Congo.

A very dear friend and preacher who has done the most wonderful work in the United Kingdom and throughout Europe, and now in India as well, was there with Peter preaching. And fortunately, his wife was a nurse so I'd commissioned her on all the things she had to watch out for on my behalf. He came back and after Peter left he wrote a beautiful tribute about the impact that that message had had on him and how determined he is to live the life with the fullness of Christ within him.

I want to read a little piece of the tribute that he wrote. He said, "In a moment of sorrow I prayed and I said, 'Well, Lord, he's closer to you now than he's ever been.' And I heard the Lord reply, 'That's not true. He's no closer to me now than when he walked the earth. Since I lived in him, the only difference is he can now see me.'"

Isn't that beautiful? What a beautiful tribute.

[Applause]

What a fulfillment for Peter to actually behold and look into the eyes of the Jesus that he loved so much.

James: Isak, Peter's ministry is not shutting down. I believe it's about to flourish. I believe the whole continent of Africa is about to be impacted by the prayers of people and the love of God flowing freely through people.

Isak: I agree, James if -- there is a big if -- if we will stand up and do what Dad did. If we will make ourselves available. If we'll have the *Death-Defying Faith*. If we'll say, "I'm prepared to go

out there and do it because I know that I can't but with God I can."

James: And if you don't go do it, you undergird it. We've got to understand that there is not a small part when God even says the preaching of the gospel, you can't even believe unless they preach. But how are they going to even preach unless they're sent? So the bottom line of even taking the gospel to the ends of the earth is the praying person who may be working but they're working for kingdom purpose and they say, "I'm going to support that."

Because all of the love of people your dad never even met, they saw him on television but they're the ones that kept your dad without empty hands, they kept his hands full because his heart was already full. They enabled him to do what God put on his heart because they did their part.

Isak: And that's why when he saw the need, what did he do? He reached out to you. Because he knew that when you speak to those that you've taken the mission fields to their homes, Joel Osteen's dad said, "You've brought the mission fields of the world to the homes of America." But you've done so much more than that because what you've done is you've taken the love of the American people and you've made it possible for them to express it.

James: Well, really people, nations all over the world, Isak, to be honest with you. Whether it is Australia or the United Kingdom or all the different parts of Asia, South America, people are saying, "We want to do that!" In other words, it's touched the whole world.

Your dad's vision and mission and what's in your hearts right now has touched the whole world. We have had a part of sharing what God put on his heart and they've had a part in participating in literally rescuing the perishing, giving them life, winning them to Christ, giving them eternity.

Isak: It's the conviction that was inside Dad, is inside us. His book starts with him using God's name in vain before he knew Jesus, driving a Formula One race car with another car spinning in front of him thinking that his life was about to come to an end. He shouted out in his helmet, "Jesus Christ, I'm going to die!"

But the story of his life after he met Jesus was that same exclamation -- just slightly different. His heart became, "Jesus Christ they're going to die. They're going to die without knowing you. They're going to die without understanding what you did for them. They're going to die because we're not getting that bowl of food to them."

James, how many times have I sat on a satellite telephone talking to you from somewhere in the middle of nowhere in Africa, telling you a story yet again of another mother that's buried a child; not because of a war, not because of some tragedy, because of something as simple as...

James: And showing us graves where they not only would dig a grave by their little hut but you showed me fields of graves. They're all little bitty graves; just little children being buried and we can correct it by people just saying, "I can! I can raise three back to life -- five or ten!" That's what they do. And I believe they caught the same spirit that was in your father's heart and in the missionaries that were working with him, I believe that spirit overflowed to where it became a Christ-like spirit of giving.

Isak: Because they put their hand up. They said, "I'll do what I can do." God didn't call us all to do the same thing. If we were all missionaries all meeting the need, no one would be there to make it possible to meet the need. So each and every one of those people put up their hand and they said, "I'll answer that call because Jesus Christ, they're all going to die. We've got to do something about it! But I'll do what I can do. What I can do is I can make it possible. I can't go there but I don't need to go there." Because we're there. We're doing it. We're going there. We found the people. We know how to get to them. We have the most incredible ability to meet their need in the most efficient and effective way.

James: And the viewers built the food factories that enabled you to produce more food than even the United Nations wanted to know if you could produce it for them because it was so effective -- and of course, couldn't because you couldn't keep up with what we've got. But you make it possible.

Jackie, your children were so moved watching granddad that they just shook the whole world

earlier this week on television. You're hearing mom and your brother talking about this, you're kind of sitting there where you're watching everything where you try to communicate it to the nations that say, "Show us." You're actually telling the story. What's the prayer of your heart as our viewers listen? What do you want to see happen right now? What are you asking God for?

Jackie: The prayer in my heart is two-fold. On the one hand, this book is really precious to me. I was at university when my dad was recording this book on voice files and I would transcribe them. It started as a fun kind of after university project, and I learned to type really fast because I didn't want to miss what was going to happen. And I grew up listening to all his stories. I thought I knew his story. But when I started to transcribe this book, that was years ago, it really impacted my life because this book is so rich, and so many insights. It takes the story -- it is full of a lot of humor and there's a lot of funny things in there but it shows you his life before Jesus. It shows you the impact of Jesus in his life. And then it shows you what a life committed to Jesus can do for others.

James: Didn't it show you, too, New Testament miraculous effect? You could see that everything Jesus did, he's still the same yesterday, today, and forever -- including in Africa, including in the toughest places.

Because I saw, I saw the New Testament miracles I believed in and read but I'd not really seen them up close and personal. Betty and I saw that. And then we saw them here. We saw God inspire faith in people that was just like really, really the dead have been raised. That's not an exaggeration. So the point is, didn't you see that this is actually inspiring people to believe for what Jesus said is real?

Jackie: Yeah, because he is a miracle-working God, and not just in Africa, everywhere. God's heart is for every single person, regardless of where you live. That's why my hope is two-fold, because I'd love every person to read this book; not just because it's a rich account for my dad's phenomenal life, which it is, but it's a rich account for what God can do in your life if you'll let him.

The second thing that I want and what I look forward to for the future is just that all of us, wherever we are, whatever our life looks like, because that is the story of a remarkable man who was my father but all of us have a remarkable story. We could all write a book on the phenomenal things that have happened in our lives, especially when God is involved. For me, and for my family, and for our family, my prayer is just that God will continue to work through us as a country because it is all the things that he has for the world, for the hungry, for the poor, for the people that are lost. Whether that works through somebody financially because they have the means to give or whether it was through somebody because they have the words to give. I think that God's got a unique way for each of us to give and for us to align to what that is is also really important.

James: I want to say something to all of you as a family and to everybody here. We're just as committed as ever to the outreaches of the Jesus Alive Ministries, the Joint Aid Management where people are joining together. We're totally committed. So my question to you is, are you all just as committed? And perhaps now, seeing even greater vision that actually, everything that Peter prayed for and all the seeds that he has sown, that we're actually going to see a greater harvest because we're committed to that. We believe our viewers are. How do you feel about it, Ann?

Ann: Oh, we're going to make it happen, James. It is no question. It's a driving force in us, that spirit of Christ in us that says we can go beyond, we can reach beyond, we can build on this legacy, we can build on the foundation.

Africa is there and open to us. God has given us such favor in the countries that we're going into. There are other countries approaching us, leadership and governments approaching us saying, "Come and multiply the programs in our country."

So the potential is there. We're surrounded by incredible need and yet we have learned to interpret the need into something called an opportunity. So yeah, we need the viewers, we need finance, we need that backup, we need prayer, we need everything that it's going to take for this

Death-Defying Faith so that we close the door on death and we are honestly bringers of life and good news to the continent of Africa.

James: Are you going to be with them in your prayers? Are you going to stand with them in gratitude and praise to God?

Let me just say this to you. We are committed, *LIFE Outreach*, but I'm just simply telling you this, everything that happened there happened because somebody here said, "I will supply the need gladly. You plant the missionaries there, you put your life in the midst of that suffering. You're not going to be empty handed, we're going to make it possible for you to actually meet needs."

You're the ones that have done it. These missionaries have said as far as their concerned you're the greatest miracle workers. You know what Peter said? He said, "The greatest Christians are not the missionaries." I know we hear that, "The greatest Christians in the world are the missionaries." He's come right here in this studio and said many times, "No! The greatest Christians in the world are the ones that keep the missionaries there. They make it possible for us to fulfill the vision God's given us."

So right now we want to give you an opportunity. We have 400,000 -- when I say we, the missionaries have located them. These are people Peter Pretorius trained. Go and find the need, the legitimate need that can be met. Organize, let them know love is going to be literally reaching out to you right here faithfully. They have to say that in faith. Believing what? Believing God will use you to supply the need.

So right now we're asking you, we come to you twice a year for feeding, we're asking you to make a gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to feed three, five or ten children for the next months; \$1,000 feeds 100. I want you to watch, I want you to hear God as you just listen to Peter Pretorius asking a question that just almost just ripped his heart out. And then you know we're the answer to his concern -- all of us together. Watch 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: Betty, I just feel like God has really graced us with his presence. He used these beautiful grandchildren to show us -- look at the grin on his face. You can't see them real good. In the pictures you can see him. You know we used to sit together and talk about we're about the same age. I'm little over a year older. See you, buddy! Keep watching down here. Okay? Because everything God put in your heart we're going to keep doing -- all of us, your family and our family and all our grandkids. Everybody loves the ministry -- this mission ministry. They've been touched by it. Thank you for your help. Would all of you and you at home, you can just say, "Praise God!"

By the way, if you've been trying to get through, keep calling until you get through. You help -- okay, would you please? Do what God put on your heart. Would you like to say thanks to the Pretorius family and thanks be to God? We'll send you the book, *Death-Defying Faith*. These stories, I'm telling you, it's going to change your life in a lot of ways. We say thanks. Thank all of you. Thanks for watching. Thank you. Love y'all! Thanks!

Announcer: When planning your future keep their future in mind. Contact *Life Planning Services* today.