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Week 22: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Jenny Weaver

James: Y'all come back sometime! Y'all are good! We welcome you. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to have you a part of *LIFE Today*.

We have a beautiful woman that has just got the glory of God on her, and a book titled, *The Sound of Freedom*. The interesting thing is that she is able to communicate the music that has eternal value with a guitar and singing, and really communicate a message.

But think about this. She was born an addict -- she was born a drug addict. You say how in the world can a baby be born an addict? Because her mother was. It really took some divine intervention or she might not be sitting anywhere right now. And then the work of God in her life for her to be where she is now is a miracle. She calls the book, *The Sound of Freedom*: How to bring the God of breakthrough into your toughest struggles.

Would you welcome Jenny Weaver to *LIFE Today*? Jenny, we're glad to have you. So glad to have you. I think that the introduction is startling -- to imagine a baby being born addicted. Tell us the circumstances. Tell us what that could have been and tell us what happened.

Jenny: My parents met in Philadelphia and my father was the drug supplier. So my mom was severely addicted to heroin. And so my birth, instead of it being a joyous occasion was one that was tragic. I was going through severe withdrawals, like a heroin baby would, and my mother was going through withdrawals. She cried out to the Lord and she said that God gave her a sign. And she immediately stopped the withdrawals, I stopped

withdrawing. She gave her life to Christ and she served him ever since that day. So I was brought up in a Christian home because of that experience.

James: That's an absolutely miracle. Why in the world would someone being, let's say, in the lifestyle she was in and addicted, why would she cry out to God? What in the world? Do you have any idea what motivated her to even think about that possibility?

Jenny: You know what? Actually she was brought up in a Catholic home but she says in the room there was a song playing on the radio and it was actually by the Carpenters. It was the song, "Why do birds suddenly appear?"

And she just began to say, "God, if you're real, give me a sign and help me. Get me free from this. Help my baby."

And she said a bird came to the window and began to fly around the window: Why do birds suddenly appear every time that you're near? And she said that was the sign; the presence of God filled the room and she gave her life right there.

James: Wow! So there are signs oftentimes that went in total harmony with exactly what she was saying, in the song that she was listening to, God just illustrated it for her. Don't you think that the fact that there was that song and that manifestation could have had anything to do with the anointing that ultimately came on you to where song is still a big part of your whole life?

Jenny: I never even connected the two until you just said that. Because she experienced *The Sound of Freedom*. Wow!

James: And God sent the bird.

Betty: Well, what happened from there? Because you said you grew up in a Christian home. What about your Dad?

Jenny: My dad eventually got saved and they began to be in ministry and church. But it took a really drastic toll. So what I would see growing up was ministry on Sunday morning, all of us children; I'm the second oldest of eight children. So I would see ministry on Sunday morning and then I would see abuse, neglect, just talking down. I rarely remember hearing, "I love you."

So because my mother was being abused it was hard for her to show us love. So that's what I saw. And that's where the rebellion came in against the church. It started early. I didn't want to have anything to do with the church.

James: How old were you then when that rebellion started?

Jenny: About 13 years old.

James: Tell me how it played out because you struggled for quite a while. What did that struggle look like?

Jenny: So what was going on is, of course, I had that in my home. I was being abused. We were being beat severely to the point of like -- blood. We were being beaten until we bled.

James: Was it just a rage that came up? Made no sense?

Jenny: Made no sense. You could spill something and you would just be hurting for days. And so because of that, and then I would go to school and I was being bullied as well.

So what the devil was doing was he was trying to set me up to receive rejection and abandonment as my identity so that I would never walk out my full purpose. So I began to go home and to self cut, which a lot of people, a lot of young people nowadays are

actually struggling with. And so I would begin to cut my wrist to release some sort of pain. It was like I was lured to do it -- just overwhelming darkness.

That opened the door for me to get into witchcraft, and I studied it, I practiced it, I set out to do it. I was practicing the religion of Wiccan. Through all of that, that opened up the door for, like you said earlier, drug addiction. So I began to experiment with all kinds of drugs.

Found myself kicked out of my home at 17 and that's when I ended up homeless on the streets, a cutting, drug addict witch. And then I began to experiment with all kinds of love. So if men were treating me bad I thought well, you know what? I'm just going to live an alternative lifestyle. And I began to take on that identity. And so very far from my upbringing of a Christian home I was out in the world and I swore God off. I cursed at God and said, "I don't want to anything to do with you." So I lived a life of a drug addict for nine years -- nine years!

James: Okay. So we've gone from a miracle that he even kept you alive, now exposure to religion, maybe some devotion -- did you see anything genuine during that timeframe that you saw something that did look like maybe Jesus might be real in some way? Or was just everything a total turn off?

Jenny: I actually experienced the Lord as a young girl. I was baptized in the Holy Spirit at six years old. I remember that experience. Then I remember I'm being hit by a car and my bike was pretty much deformed. I laid in the road. A car hit me straight on at seven years old. And then when I went to sleep that night I said, "Mom, I want to meet Jesus."

And my mom genuinely, she loved the Lord. You couldn't tell her that God was not real. She said, "You pray, the Lord will come to you."

And we prayed and that night I encountered Jesus. So those things I remember.

James: They were back in your subconscious mind? So you go through this process. Now you've basically become a wreck. We're talking about *The Sound of Freedom*, where did something start changing and what led to the change?

Jenny: About the end of the nine years I ended up pregnant with my daughter who is now nine years old. And so I'm still using and I know I need to quit because I'm pregnant but I can't stop. I'm homeless, I'm sleeping in sheds, and I'm hiding under beds for days. I have just -- I was insane. I was actually hallucinating. So I remember not eating for five days, newly pregnant, not sleeping so I was just hallucinating. And I got into an argument and I just cried out to God. I went outside. It was raining and I just cried out to God. Three words are all I could pray because I didn't have any eloquent things to say. I didn't have any special things. I just cried out to God and I literally screamed at the top of my lungs. I said, "God! Help me!" That was it. No goosebumps, no lightning, didn't see anything -- but the peace of God.

And then just a few days later I was rescued out of that situation. I was placed --. Actually, it wasn't a good thing, people would say. I was placed in a jail cell and I was happy because I knew I was going to be able to get something to eat and I knew I was going to be able to get a shower and things like that.

I'm sorry, I get emotional.

Betty: And it could be safe in a way.

James: Paul and Silas sang in jail. It broke all the chains off and threw the doors open.

Jenny: We sang in jail as well. Yes, we did.

James: Who sang with you? Who is the "we?"

Jenny: Well, I would invite girls into this little tiny cell in jail and we would have a

Bible study.

James: Ministry started.

Jenny: And people got saved.

James: When you came out of jail did you come out a new person?

Jenny: I did.

James: Did you come out with freedom beyond the borders -- you had a spiritual freedom that took place?

Jenny: I came out with a level of freedom but I still had to go through the process of restoration and deliverance because although I wasn't using drugs, the root of the problem was still there. And the Lord began to reveal who I was as a daughter, which I never understood because I didn't have my father in my life until later -- which I just love that whole story. And God restored even that relationship and began to teach me what it was to be a daughter.

James: Okay. So you ended up having ministry of song because you have your guitar over here. And so you just what? Start kind of sharing the truth about God with songs that rise up in your spirit? And then you communicate those and you find people are listening and their lives are being impacted?

Jenny: Yes. So what I would do is I went home, I'm newly saved, I have a brand-new baby and I would go on in my room, close the door, get the guitar and I would begin to sing like I was taught. So I would sing, "I exalt thee" -- songs that we know. Then all of the sudden, the presence of God would fill the room and I would hear what I would call the new song, which the Bible talks about, or like David would sing "the song of the Lord."

So the Lord would begin to sing over me, which is in the Bible, he sings over us, and I would hear the Father song: I've always loved you. You are my daughter. And I would be going, I've never heard this before. So I began to do research and I found out that actually, it is a thing. People are actually doing it.

James: Would you like to hear her sing one of the songs that God put on her heart? Would you do that?

Jenny: I find that people love Psalm 91. So I'll just freestyle Psalm 91.

[Jenny sings]

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High

This is for he who dwells in the shelter

Of the Most High

You're going to abide

No harm will befall you

No disaster will come near you

No harm will befall you

No disaster will come near you

He will charge his angels

To watch over you

And my Bible says

That they encamp around you

Oh

He encamps around you

So no harm

No harm will befall you

Because the Lord, he is my shepherd

And I don't want for a thing
He leads me in paths of righteousness
Only for his name's sake
He anoints my head with oil
Oh, Father, anoint my head
Let my cup -- my cup run over
And surely goodness
Surely mercy
Surely it's going to follow me all the days of my life
I decree and I declare that surely mercy
And surely his goodness is going to follow you
Wherever you go

James: You're living proof of that. Keep your guitar there a minute because you may or may not need it. But we had a nice meal together and we had Phil Robertson who has family; right -- the *Duck Dynasty* crowd. And we had Elisabeth Hasselbeck who was the witness on *The View* for a long, long time, there with us this week. But did you feel family in there?

Jenny: Yes.

James: Did you feel anything rising up in you about the importance of family?

Jenny: Yes!

James: Do those kind of songs come to you?

Jenny: Yes!

James: Did anything come to you while we were sitting around there? I'm just curious.

Jenny: When I was sitting around and I was telling Tina when we walked out, I said, "From the first moment that you began to speak I felt like the Holy Spirit in the room." Actually, I was crying almost through the whole dinner. I couldn't even eat because there was this beauty like we're all one. Like you say what Jesus prayed, "Let them all be one as I'm one in you."

That's what God is doing right now in this hour. He is uniting the body of Christ, blacks, whites, young, old -- that we can come together and really have the kingdom of God on earth now. That's *The Sound of Freedom*. That's it!

James: That is the truth. His kingdom is here. There is a kingdom to come, there is a kingdom that is here. And we live with kingdom purpose; that's the only way you find the fullness of life in this life. Did you get any kind of little phrase or something that came up that could be a phrase of a song?

Jenny: Yeah! I just go on and it just comes. Because it's not me.

James: Sing us a little thing about the family.

Jenny: About the family. Let's do this.

[Jenny sings]

Let them be one

As I am one

Father, you said, "Let them be one

As you and I are one"

Then walk together

Talk together

Be as one as I am one

No strife, no fighting, no division

Let them be one
I want to see the one
The one coming forth in this day and hour
I want to see the one
My one church
My one body
One voice
One!

James: Amen! That's his prayer. That is *The Sound of Freedom*. Would you like to say thanks to Jenny and thanks to God for what's he's done and doing in her life?

Do you go and sing in churches? Do you go and minister if somebody wanted to invite you and know how to get a hold of you? What's the web site they would go to?

Jenny: JennyWeaverWorships.com.

James: All right. There it is on the screen. If you say we'd like her to come, here's the book. You can get it online. You can go to any of the online services, get it in the bookstores.

I will just tell you, you know what we're doing, Jenny because you're aware of what we do. Right now we're trying to feed children that without the love that we express they won't live. I'll tell you what. We're giving this incredible Bible study by one of my best friends, O.S. Hawkins, *The James Code*. It is not named after me. This is not James' code. This is the Bible book, *The James Code*. We're sending it.

But if you say you know what? I'm going to help you feed those children, I'm going to help you put arms of love around those families in desperate need and we're going to do it joyfully, we'll be happy to send you *The Sound of Freedom* if you'd like to have it.

I want you to watch very, very closely. Our grandson is there with our mission team and really, you might say that they're in the very throes of death and destruction, and misery and pain that only love can heal. Those with a broken heart and hands to help are so limited unless you say, "I'm going to notice the least of these and I'm going to become the miracle they desperately need." Watch. I think you're going to want to be that miracle.

On the mission field

Luke: During my time in ministry, I've often discovered the need is far more severe than I anticipated. So here in Uganda, children and people have literally been forced out of their homes. I know Isak here has been able to meet some of these people. We're here with three precious siblings, and I know you've gotten a chance to talk with them and hear their story and find out kind of what's going on.

Isak: It's kind of hard to repeat that story. This little guy just -- you can see how he just cries. His whole world has been destroyed. This family of children saw their mother and father slaughtered in front of them -- killed right in front of them.

Luke: After witnessing her parents murders, 15-year old Joyce took her brother and sister, ages six and three, and fled for their lives.

Isak: They've literally spent the last five days trekking through the bush in this area. Let me tell you, that's a hostile bush. No food.

Luke: Today, Joyce and her siblings are safe from immediate danger but they're faced with an insurmountable task of starting a new life without their mother and father. They need our help.

Isak: We can't change what's happened to them but what we can do is we can honor the fact that Joyce had the power inside of her to say, "I'll grab my brother and my sister and

I'm going to get them to a place of safety." And she's done that. But now we need you to turn that place of safety into a place of refuge, a place where they can receive food. I need you to do it. Joyce needs you to do it to give this family a second chance, to give them life.

End of video

In the studio:

James: That family is just a picture of many. And Betty, for now nearly 30 years we've watched millions of children's lives totally transformed. And it's because viewers, like you, decided to make all the difference in somebody's world of pain and suffering -- and you made the difference with love.

Betty, it thrills us to see our grandson there who has a beautiful little girl now, a wonderful wife in love with Jesus, and yet he really wanted to go there because he's actually been caring about it since he was a little boy, and he's been several times to the mission field. He is literally making an appeal for that family but it's representing many families.

Well, 400,000 right now are already organized that we found just like these. These were coming to a place where they heard there would be help. But there could only be help if our viewers provide the help, otherwise there's just concern and heartache. But you're the miracle. And our viewers have been faithful to provide that miracle of support. And right now I'm believing they're going to do it.

And we need an extra surge of support because there's been a crush, a rush to safety. But several of the national agencies saw the compassion of the missionaries and said, "If you can bring in more relief workers that have a heart like you, and you can get the ability to deliver it, we'll give you this much more food and you can add all of these to the feeding."

Luke said, "We prayed with those workers from UNICEF and United Nations." He said, "Papaw, they just started crying because they could see the love of the people that will go right in to hell to take heaven, to take love with them."

So we need a surge of extra help right now. We need \$270,000 right now additional, and I've just been praying, God, give us 270 people who will say, "I've got \$1,000 to make that happen." Because we've got the 400,000 that we're feeding every week and we're going have to have a tremendous surge of support and I'm believing God is going to grant it.

Betty: I believe God is going to grant it too. As I watched that family my heart was broken. I saw those little children. They're not jumping up and down with joy. James and I just recently went to a birthday celebration for one of our great-granddaughters! There was much joy, much celebration.

I want these families to have that kind of celebration. We were celebrating a birthday. I want them to be able to celebrate a life that wasn't lost because they didn't have the food and the things they needed to survive. Please join with us and let's do that for these families.

James: What we're asking you to do is simply right now dial that phone number. It's always a prayer line if your heart's broken or you need help, call for prayer. Or go online. Would you go get a bankcard immediately? And would you use it like a check?

Now remember this. We need that surge of support. That's a \$270,000 surge but we need to let them know the miracle can be there to make that even possible because it is actually of such great value what's happening. But the 400,000 we've got located, we feed -- now think about this -- for \$30, \$50, or \$100 we feed three, five or ten children for the next months. Where can you put \$100 and have that kind of impact? It's going to change their lives. It's going to save their lives! And we're going to point them to the love of God that inspired you to touch them with love.

Would you right now please, go get that card? If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but please call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail because we have to know, and we have to let the missionaries know, yes. We can do it. We will do it. We have some gifts to send you to say thank you and to inspire you. But you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving the gift of life. Thank you. Thank you for making that gift.

Begin video clip

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

With previous reserves gone and mission feeding helping in areas of great famine, we urgently need your support to replenish food supplies to reach the 400,000 children who are counting on us. Your life saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months!

Please consider an extra gift to help ease the suffering of innocent families who, due to tribal warfare, have had to flee their homes in South Sudan to neighboring Uganda, in desperate search of food.

World Food representatives have asked for our immediate assistance. That's why an additional \$270,000 is urgently needed to help provide food to those who are starving.

With your gift, we'll send you The James Code by O.S. Hawkins. You'll also enjoy this beautifully crafted leather bookmark.

With your gift of \$100 or more request *The Passion* translation Bible. This edition ignites *The Passion* of the Bible to modern readers by merging *The Passion* of God's heart with the life-changing truth of his word.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our commemorative bronze sculpture, "Safe in the Shepherd's Arms."

Please call write or make your gift online.

End of clip

In the studio

James: Thank you. We thank you for that sister that picked up her little siblings and took them to safety; safety that's made possible because of your love. *The James Code* for any gift, the beautiful *Passion* translation for those who will help us care for 100, the beautiful bronze. Could you possibly help us with that challenge? I hope you will.

If you'd like to have Jenny's incredible story, *The Sound of Freedom*, you say, "Would you mind sending me that too? I'm going to help the kids. I'm going to help those in need." We'll be glad to do it. Thank you so much.

Would you join us in thanking Jenny Weaver for being a blessing to us and sharing? Thank you for your testimony. Thank you for the song. Thank you for the one you just did for us. It just happened.

Thank all of you for being here. Thank you for watching *LIFE Today* and sharing life today and hopefully every day.