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Week 20: Spring Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Randy Robison and Sheila Walsh

"Light of the World"

Betty: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. Thank you so much for joining us. In line with what our whole world is going through today, we thought it would be good to have our son, Randy and our good friend, Sheila, who is one of our co-hosts, and all of us to share what's on our heart today, hopefully, to be an encouragement to you.

James: And notice that, of course, Betty and I we stay close. Randy is close. He's six feet. We're trying to honor, and yet he's been so kind to say, "I'll bring things by the house if you need it. Keep you older folks taken care of." He's been ready, and his whole family. And Sheila, she's way over here. We've got...

Sheila: Hi!

James: We keep the distance because honestly we want to honor those in authority and we believe that all of our healthcare overseers that are advising our national leaders, our President and those around him, we believe they really want the best for all of us. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could always all live that way? To where we want the best for everyone and whatever it takes, we're going to deliver it? We're really learning to do that. I am glad that Sheila and Randy are with us.

Well, Sheila, we want to say thanks, and Randy, we'll be talking to you in a moment. But you do normally go out speaking and now you're not able to. But you do through social media try to stay in touch with people and hear what they have to say. What are you hearing and what do

people pass on to you?

Sheila: Well, Barry, my husband and I, we started doing this thing on a Sunday night called "Church in the Kitchen." We just do it on Facebook live. We just sit on a couple stools and we talk, and we share. And we play some worship music. We have communion with one another. And last Sunday we had like 20,000 people join with us. And it was really beautiful.

I even ask people, if you're far away from the Lord at this point and you're suddenly full of fear, couldn't be a better night to come home. And a number of people said, "Yeah, I'm coming home. I know there is no hope apart from Jesus."

But one or two comments that were really interesting to me was, do you know how many people out there consider you and Betty their spiritual dad and mom? There are so many people who say to me, "They've been like my spiritual mother and father for years." And they've received so much encouragement and hope. And I think that's why it is so perfect that you're able to speak to our audience now.

James: Wow! Let me just tell you that you fill us with encouragement. Can I lean in and look straight in your face? Boy, you've not only lifted us up, you've lifted up millions of people. And the great joy for me and for Betty is just to point some place that light needs to shine, and love needs to touch and compassion and wow! It is... Sheila, it is like Jesus stands up in the lives of our viewers. It means a lot that they would look at us in a way that they would say anything positive. Thank you! But they are absolutely awesome!

Aren't you amazed, and as you've gone on the mission fields and you see that we found people anointed, gifted by God, and willing to plant their life in the midst of the greatest suffering, offering the greatest hope and help possible, and people see it and enable them to keep being that bright light by putting the oil in the lantern.

Sheila: There is something very unique about you two. I don't think -- I've worked with so many wonderful people through the years. I've never worked with anyone who so supports the

ministries of other people. Every single person who comes into the studio, your thing is how can I support you? How can I support your ministry?

And it's not surprising to me that God has blessed *LIFE Outreach* because you've always made it, it's about the kingdom, it's not about me, it's not about building up this ministry. How can I help what you're doing? When I get to be on the mission field, I love the fact that you didn't just go in and say, okay, here we are and we're going to set our things up. You said, "God, who are you using here? How can I underwrite their work?"

And when I get on... when Randy and I both get out on the mission field, we hear from all the partners there, "Tell James and Betty we love them! We could not do this without them."

James: I've got to be honest with you. We all need encouragement. I really spent a lot of time trying to encourage people. And Sheila, you've been a great encouragement sharing what our viewers say. Let me just tell you for me and Betty, we're not going anywhere. We're old enough to go somewhere but we're going to be here trying to keep God's arms around you and inspire you to get his arms around others. When Sheila comes in and says somebody sees that and I realize that God is pleased and you see him in us, Betty, that thrills me beyond words. I just got gratitude. I want to go home and just get down on my face and just praise God that somebody sees what's deep in our heart and that's that his will be done on earth.

Betty: I know that you shared with Sheila and others that we've blessed you but I want to tell you something, you've been the bigger blessing to us because of your loyalty to God's ministry here, and also sending us out so that that we can minister to others. What a blessing that is. That's big to us. That's big to God mainly! And we thank you so much. We love you. We want to be an encouragement to you in every walk of life that you're on. And just know that when you feel like maybe you're by yourself, just remember, Betty and James are in your hearts and we love you.

James: I tell you what, you are really special. Randy, I do thank you for the way you encourage us. You've got four kids, two of them married, another one going to be married this year. You don't know about the other one. You've got two of them in college, and that's tough; that means

they're shut down in certain ways. What do you want people to hear as a father of four children right now, and two of them college students? What do you feel like has been an encouragement to you that you hope others will grasp?

Randy: It's a lot what Sheila was talking about, the encouragement and the hope that we have tried to give, not in our name but in Jesus' name. He is the one who came and said, "I am the light of the world." Jesus said he was. And then he turned around and said, "You are the light of the world."

I look at all that we've been through recently. Actually, I was sitting in the studio over here and looking around. Do you know in this studio, there is not one exterior window -- not one! We've got artificial light, and we've got power, manmade power pumped in here and cameras built by human hands. And if those fail, we are completely in the dark.

Now these lights are great. This is all wonderful but when human constructs go dark and you cannot rely on them, we need to get to that natural light. And what I've seen during this time is a church that has just come alive and said okay, we're going to adapt. We're going to go online. Like Sheila and her husband, sitting in her kitchen ministering to people. How do we do this? I've been doing the noon *LIFE Today* Live talking to people through Skype all over the country, just trying to minister hope and encouragement to people.

A friend of mine is a pastor in Arkansas. He's been drive up church, like a drive-in movie theater, they all pull up. My church has continued to deliver food to people. Another local church, Brandon Thomas's church, he was talking about how the first thing they did was call everybody in their church, especially elderly. They said, "What can we bring you? What can we do for you?" And it is not that they keep it in the walls. We've seen the church explode outside the walls. I think God's going, "I'm going to force you to adapt a little bit because I've got to get you outside your walls a little more because you are that light."

So I've seen a church do what's been on your heart and all of our hearts to do for so many years, which is to just shine that light of hope and encouragement into the darkness and say, "We're

light because we're reflecting the light of Christ." So I think it's been a time of opportunity as much as a time of stress and anxiety.

James: Sheila, what do you think?

Sheila: That's beautifully said, Randy. That's absolutely right. I think when I was reading -- do you mind if I read this passage? I was reading in John 17 and if you think about it, Christ knows what's about to happen. He knows that none of his friends do, but he knows he is about to endure the greatest physical and spiritual agony that any human being will ever face.

But then he starts to pray for Randy and Betty and James and Sheila. This is verse 20: "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message." That's you! "I pray that they will all be one, just as you are and I are one -- as you are in me, Father and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me."

But then this: "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I'm in them, you are in me. May they experience..." Now this is your heart, James. This is your heart from Jesus' lips. "May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me..." But get this! "And that you love them as much as you love me."

I mean that's overwhelming to me that God loves us the way he loves his son! And he said, it is not going to be crusades or books or anything else that will convince the world, it is when we begin to love one another, despite our differences, then the world is going to say...

Betty: And that's the love that changes. That's the love that God wants to be in all of us. When we realize that he gave his only begotten Son for us -- for you and me and all of us.

When I was growing up I used to think, God didn't notice me very much because I didn't see any talents, any gifts really. Being a middle child, I don't know if that had something to do with it or not, and I had wonderful siblings, but sometimes you feel like God has forgotten you. He hasn't forgotten. He created you with all the love he could give and put in you. It's just like when we

look at our own children when they're born. Oh we hold them up, we say, "So perfect! They're so perfect." That's the way God feels about us every day because he sees us as he created us. Not as we've allowed the world to put on us, all the flaws that the world throws at us and the enemy does. God says, "Let me dust you off. Let me shine you up a little bit and let you shine as I shine through you because I created you. I didn't make a mistake."

James: Well, I just wish I could get -- I do get my arms around this girl a lot, and it's okay. We're good. I'm not worried about catching something from her. We're going to have whatever we got together. But I want to tell you this because boy, if you could just hear this please. One of the greatest joys in my life because I knew she didn't think she had anything to offer. And she was just kind of overlooked. And one of the greatest joys of our life on this earth has been to water this garden and to encourage her to bloom. And when I watch what I see there, I just say, "Lord, thank you."

But here's what I need you to hear. This is the reason I'm saying that. God wants you to hear that. Sheila just read it. He loves you as much as he loves Jesus. And when she was reading that, I could just see him looking at his Son on the cross, and he knew how much he loved him. I just believe that as a father looking at all of us, he had to be somehow thinking, please help them see how much I love them. I gave my only for you.

Would you receive that love right now? Would you receive it in the person of Jesus who is alive, who died that we might have the life he so freely and fully offers. Would you just say, "Jesus, I don't understand it all. God, I don't understand everything. I've got a lot to learn." And you may be going through the toughest times beyond anything you ever imagined, but God is saying, "I raised that boy that died for you, I raised him. He is alive!" And sent his spirit to live in all of you who will receive him. If you'll just receive him, say, "God, I don't understand it all. But in a childlike faith I trust you with my life. And I trust the life that you gave for me. And I just give you my life." Would you just tell him that?

I watched millions of people come forward all over the world. Billy Graham said there is something about coming forward. God said, "Confess me before others and I will confess you."

Jesus said, "Confess me before men, I'll confess you before the Father."

Would you call that number and say, "I just gave my life to this God you talked about. And I just received the Jesus that you talked about that he gave for me into my life." And someone will pray with you. We'll send you a little simple Bible study called *Knowing God as Father*, to try to help you on your journey. Would you do that? I pray you will.

Randy, thank you for being so much a part of not only our family but God's family and *LIFE Outreach*. And Sheila, thank you. We just believe God brought us together to try and bring the family together. I said to my staff this week, the ones that are here because we are still in, we're the essentials in so many ways that we're able to be here. We keep our distance. But I said, "I just wish the whole church could just love each other like our family does here." Oh man, God wants that so. So church, let's be that kind of member of the family, that body of Christ, really connected and submitted to his headship. And let's try to inspire America to be a family.

Sheila, we just have a few minutes left. We're going to ask our viewers to help us feed children and put their arms around them. It's been amazing to me when people are at the hardest time of their life, you wonder is anybody going to help? And I pointed out that the older people who are even attacked right now even by this terrible disease, they're vulnerable. The enemy is trying to take people that have the years and the wisdom and so much insight about what happens with certain consequences of certain actions, both positive and negative. And they're important. But they also have resources that a lot of them are saying, God, you gave me oversight. I want to use it wisely. What are you praying our people will feel in their heart even as we as a family try to do something together, even as it relates to what we do?

Sheila: I often think, if you could come with me on the plane, and we'll touch down in say Angola and Africa, and if I could take you into these malnutrition clinics and you sat with me with one of those moms and those children, you would do everything in your power to bring life. But that's the great thing. We can bring that to you now. We can show you those mothers.

And I never leave without saying to them, "I promise I'll go home and tell your story." And to be

able to look into the eyes of a mom who is maybe buried two children and people think, well, do they get used to it in Africa? No mother would ever get used to burying a child. But to say to them, "Listen, there's some people you might never meet until we are all home in glory but they care about you. When I go home and tell them, they're going to help." They're going to change the world for that family.

James: Boy, it means so much to them to know that we don't forget them once we've helped them. Did you know in the area where we saw more buried in a burial ground, thousands, many of them tiny little graves, they were burying a lot of times a dozen to hundred a day?

And we went back after we had stabilized things in that particular region of total poverty and death and we went in to where there was a pastor that had started a school and then they were doing the feeding at the school and these kids were singing and they were so happy. This is years ago. And he was a little bit short guy. I'm six three; I'm pretty tall but he was really short. And he followed us all the way out to the car and he kept pulling on Peter Pretorius's shirt and saying something to him. Peter turned and walked over to me. He said, "You know what this pastor just said? He said you came in here now and you saw all these kids are healthy and they're coming to school. And they're learning how to sing. And he thinks you'll never come back. And they won't have any food now."

Boy, Sheila, I just turned to look at him and said, "Sir, we're going to help you keep these kids coming to school, teach their little minds and we'll give them a future." Do you know what? The only way that I can say that is because of you. And I'm even finding that in these high-pressure times the love of God and the spirit of God rises up in you and says, James, we'll tell those pastors and teachers, we're going to keep helping those kids. You keep teaching them. We want to give them a great future, not only here but forever.

I want you to just watch right now and look in on a situation and understand the courage of our mission teams when they are literally sometimes rushed out of a situation for their life's sake and watching the people who are trying to organize to help, watch them have to run. But wherever they run, we're going to be there with them because of you. Watch this.

On the mission field:

Isak: We're here in the Pibor area of South Sudan and we were briefed by the head of security, and they've said to us, "Look you cannot venture out of here today." We were supposed to go out in some of the villages that we're helping in where literally the conditions are just desperate.

They get hit by crisis after crisis. They literally have lost homes as a result of flooding some months ago. The drought that is onset after that, and now are unable to produce food for themselves. We found woman after woman who told us how they've lost children as a result, and yet now they face this heightened insecurity and a physical risk. It is just devastating because their children that will be suffering would have been this area of malnutrition or starvation and now they find themselves here where the conditions just worsened.

They've had to gather up everything they had. If you look at some of the people around here, they're carrying a mattress and everything they can, just whatever they own, they've brought into this area. This is now going to have to be home. And we encountered woman after woman who have lost children. Many of them saying, "We are in critical need of food. It is a desperate situation for us."

I need you to understand. The mothers here want peace for their children. They just want to be able to have a settled home, to be able to meet the needs of their children, keep them alive, and a dream of seeing their children thrive. They're not the ones creating the conflict. They are victims to what is happening here from a small group of people that are attacking their area and literally stealing their lives.

For most of these women their biggest concern is how am I going to feed my child? We'll try and meet the needs of these people immediately, but the real challenge is that we've got to get back out into those villages. We're ready to go. The moment they give us security clearance we'll go back to those villages and we'll reach those people. Because it is our responsibility as their neighbors to express God's heart and to extend his hand to them. But we cannot do it without

you.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Wow! Do you know that the United Nations and again, sometimes you think, well, maybe you should never share that, but the U.N. have actually come to our mission teams and said, "We have food but we have no one that can deliver it. But somehow you folks, you people, your mission workers, your relief workers, you risk everything. So here." And many times they have unloaded enormous amounts of food for us to take in. That's not what we're facing right now but I'm just telling you it has happened.

And you want to know why it's happened? Because of people so full of the love of God, so full of his compassion, they're carried by that love, and they go in. They risk their lives to save lives. Just like all the workers and the healthcare workers now, and the first responders. Do you realize how important it is for us to pray for all of our healthcare workers, everyone working in these hospitals? Thank God for all the corporations, all the businesses that are doing everything to supply needs.

By the way, this shouldn't just be something in the midst of a crisis, it ought to be the way we live. And the businesses ought to be not gouging but doing it even less expensive. In other words, do everything, can we please think that way? I really believe the viewers of *LIFE Today* do think that way.

So just understand this. They're willing to go in and I can tell you right now they are organizing places where the people are secure, but they don't have anything to eat. They're basically living as refugees. We can save their lives, we can give them a future. Various hot spots all over Africa. Your gift right now, if you go online or dial that number that is there, a prayer line, people have called in to give their life to Christ, that number is paid for by love. Many have experienced that love today. Would you because of God's love in you, would you go online or dial that number? Take your bankcard and make the gift God's puts on your heart. I pray you'll make the best gift

you can. \$30, \$50, \$100 feeds three, five or ten children. I always say, could you help us feed ten? Is there any way you can feed 100 and give \$1,000? Is that possible? Well, you do whatever you can. Do it now if you will. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail. We really do need to know that. We depend on God's love shared through you as a yielded vessel, a channel through which he flows that love. Thank you for supporting people that are so courageous. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you so much for your help.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Mission feeding began with a promise to be there in times of crisis for thousands of hurting and hungry children in their time of need. Now more than ever we need your help to save lives by feeding and caring for children across the continent of Africa.

With food reserves gone and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish our supplies to reach the 350,000 children who are counting on us.

Your gift of love can be the miracle answer to a desperate mother's prayer. Call now with your life saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 that will help feed and care for three, five or ten children for three full months. With your gift we'll send you the *Global Impact of Life Journal*. This softcover journal includes pictures from the mission field and inspiring scriptures as a reminder of your impact in giving to bless lives around the world.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the *Global Impact Bible*. This English Standard Version presents a fascinating guide to the impact of the bestselling book of all time filled with quotes from well-known figures, photographs and reproductions of fine art. It highlights the many surprising ways scripture has shaped civilization.

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, "A Mother's Strength."

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video

On the mission field:

Clint: We're at one of our school feeding programs in South Sudan where these kids are receiving a meal. Every school day they receive a meal. We've traveled through South Sudan, we've heard and seen so many heartbreaking stories about people who have no food. They're experiencing famine at the moment in this country and it is truly heartbreaking. But to me, it is so encouraging to be making a difference.

So I just wanted to say thank you to all of our partners, all of our donors who are partnering with us. Not all of us can come and be in South Sudan but we can all get involved, we can all help. Because unfortunately, not every school in this area is receiving food, not every school in this country is receiving food. We need more help, we need more partners to join with us. So please help, please join!

End of video

In the studio:

James: Well, Betty and I are so grateful for your help. Randy, you and Sheila just say whatever is on your heart.

Randy: I just appreciate all that the viewers have done over the years and especially during these difficult times to encourage people and to reach out and just to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Sheila: I just want to say how much we love you. We're so grateful for you. We pray for you. But thanks for the privilege of being the hands and feet of Jesus in this world. It's amazing!

James: I want to say a prayer. Father, for every viewer, I don't know what's going on in their life. I do know when they knew something was going on in our life, something very big, when we said good-bye to our daughter, we could feel their arms. We thank you for it. Now Lord, you put your arms around all of the people who have a broken heart and you help us together continue lifting you up and lifting others up in Jesus' name. Thanks for watching. Thanks for sharing life.