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Week 17: Spring Mission Feeding

Mission Special #1

Janice Meyer

James: I want to welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I know we're not supposed to be touching and putting arms around people but I'd like to help pull you up close to the heart of God.

Betty is not with me today and you know that if she is not sitting here beside me there has to be a reason. She really didn't rest well and she was having a little trouble breathing. Don't be alarmed. There is not something serious. She is trying to be very careful. And I want to encourage you all to do that but not be fearful or panic stricken. God is no part of that. He doesn't give us a spirit of fear but of love, power, (his power,) and a sound mind, a safe secure wise mind, which we're seeking to be wise.

I want to say a prayer for you. Father, I don't know what's going on in the life of the viewer, and all the different viewers all over the world, but I know you are vitally interested in what's going on in their life. I want you to let them know just how interested. Then Lord, I'd like you to so touch every viewer right now with an understanding of just how much love you desire to flow freely through them. As you love them, they are a vessel through which and through whom you love so many others; in Jesus' name.

Can I tell you something? The Lord made it very clear to me that those of you who watch *LIFE Today* are a very special, the Bible often uses a special group, a few survivors or oftentimes a remnant, a special people that he accomplishes his eternal kingdom work through because they really want to know and do his will. Let me tell you something. The faithful viewers of *LIFE Today* and the people that are drawn to this program, unquestionably look beyond themselves

and they care about others. You're a very special people.

Today is a very special program because we're talking about the need for people to have food to live. And we need spiritual food, which we seek to provide every day right here through some of the most gifted vessels on the planet who love God and love you.

But we also do missions. You want to know why? Because God called missionaries to go and put his arms around the least of these. And then as the missionaries told me, he raised up a very special group. The missionaries say far more special than them, people like you who enable them to fulfill the call of God and accomplish his will. With broken hearts and full of love, they don't have empty hands. They can actually minister to the needs of the people because of the love of God not only in their heart but flowing through you.

A young lady is with us right now that has been on virtually every mission trip all over the world. More than 70 countries -- you may correct me and tell me it's a whole lot more than that. But she goes with joy. She's been working with me, the first time when she was 16 years old, and then very regularly shortly thereafter. And now then, I know it's tough to say this, but she's just over 60. So she's been working a long time. And she goes with the greatest joy and passion and compassion of anyone I know. You see her pictures all the time. She's taking pictures all over the world on the mission field and bringing us glimpses of need, of love, compassion, and the glory of God in the most difficult circumstances. Janice Meyer, I'm glad to have you here.

Janice: I'm so excited to be here. Usually I'm out there. It's fun to be sitting here with you.

James: You're our floor director and you do an excellent job when you are here. You went to a country that's very dangerous, and I know because I walked with Franklin Graham all over it in the early days. We had to use mine detectors to even walk out to the tent we were going to sleep in. It's still dangerous. You went and you were basically there for over three weeks. Were you afraid?

Janice: No. I've just... People say, "You're so courageous!" And I'm like, "No, I'm not

really." Because I just wasn't given that fear thing. Might not be the smartest on the planet but I love it too much and I love the people too much. I'm ready to go right now -- go back out. I'm not afraid but not because it wasn't a situation that might deem that. We were just there and the situation was not good at all.

James: We're going to see that too in the course of this program. What is it that carries you there, Janice? Why are you so excited about sending back so many pictures that you even share continually on your own Facebook and with your friends? And you show people situations that are extremely painful and difficult to look at, how do you handle all of this and yet you have such a compassion/passion to show people the least of these in a way that they might want to get God's arms around them. Is that what's actually perhaps happening in your mind a little bit?

Janice: That is the whole motivation. My desire in my life from the beginning to go, my first trip out of the country was to Mozambique, Africa. Since that day, and I saw what is happening around the world, my life was changed. And the desire, I didn't even know was in there was to bring back the story of the people that aren't allowed to tell their story. I sometimes take a photo of a child and then that child dies and I think, I have the only thing that says that child was ever alive. I have the only proof to say this child lived and this child was important. I hope that that child doesn't die in vain. That that child, I can bring even that story back and somebody will say, "Let's stop it!"

But that's the compassion in my heart. I wouldn't go unless I could make a difference because then I would just be heartbroken all the time.

James: If all you were taking is pictures of pain, suffering, and death I don't think you'd go back. But what is it that takes you back? Because what do you see people watching us right now, able to do, when you just become a vessel through which God flows his love? Tell them what enables you to go back Janice. Because what they, the missionaries, enable to happen.

Janice: Well, I keep going back because our people are so great. And they say, "Go back." And they say, "Let's do all we can." Because one time I was asked, "Do you feel, Janice..." from a

friend, "Do you feel like you're spitting on a forest fire?" And I said... really I had to excuse myself and go to the bathroom and cry because it hurt me so bad because I thought, would we ever ask that of a cancer researcher? Would we ever ask that of an AIDS researcher? No! We wouldn't because it could feel like that there too but we are not spitting on a forest fire, we are changing lives. We're changing one at a time.

And the reason I will always go until somebody says, "You cannot go anymore" is because of this child and that child, that mother that buried her child and I went to the grave with them. That's the only reason I go. And because I know it's simple. It is not cancer research -- it is food! I know that we can make a difference. I know that so little can do so much.

James, there is a few statistics that have changed my life. This one I just learned about a year or two ago. I just spoke at a retreat recently and I said to them, "What if you were in the top 1% financially in the world? What would you do differently?" I said, "Let's sit on that and let's think about it." And we've all passed a billboard of a lottery and thought, what would I do with that? But if you were in the top 1% financially of the world, what would you do? Well, then I looked it up. If you make \$32,000 and \$400, \$32,400 you're in the top 1% of the world financially. It changed my life! I am in that -- I do have that much! I've had that much to give. I do and it changed my life. I'm going to live differently!

And so to know those facts and to know that 90% of the world, 99% of the world lives differently than me, I can make a difference. And right now things are hard all over the world. And my heart though, last night, laid in bed and cried because I knew there were hundreds of thousands of children lining up for food that may not get it. We may have to say "no" and that is the fear of my life, is that we would have to say "no" to children.

James: Janice, you know you just mentioned the research for cancer, like spitting on a fire. We lost a daughter to cancer. The most beautiful 40 years of Jesus life we've ever seen! And you would say we want to help them. You wouldn't say it was wasted. Janice, listen. They're looking for a cure for cancer.

Janice: My mom died of cancer last year.

James: Exactly! We have the perfect cure though for what you're seeing. When you come back and say, this child is dying we have a perfect cure. We're going to just give them food. We used to see them come with these old rusty cans and try to get it. And they came with plastic bags and they'd put the soup in it, the missionaries and it would burn through and be on the ground. And those little kids would reach down and scoop up the dirt to get the soup. And you said, let's give them a heat-resistant bowl. The missionaries were afraid for us to spend money on bowls because they said, "We've got to have food! We've got to have food. We don't want to take money for a bowl."

Listen to me! Listen to me! You're a miracle worker. You're the perfect cure. You give them what God made that we all need. I've asked God to give us the greatest outpouring of love we've ever seen. I know Betty's home right now praying for me and praying for you. I want the perfect cure for whatever attacks you. I want the perfect cure for the Coronavirus, and any virus. I think we get the more perfect move of God's love when we allow it to flow freely through us.

I want you to listen to Isak Pretorius as he just gives us a picture of what's going on in South Sudan. Some of the most precious people in the world live there. It was very dangerous. Even before this program is over, you're going to see that our missionaries had to pack up and get out. But I want you to listen to this missionary talk about what your love is doing and can do. Please listen closely. But above all things, I want you to look up at God and say, God, we want a cure for every virus, the Coronavirus. We don't want older people to die! And they have to have a respirator for some and not one, and we pick who lives and who dies? God, we want your love around people. So today this is a chance. I'm saying, God, let's start a river of love flowing more freely than ever.

Just listen to Isak as he talks about this situation that the love of God, flowing through you and these missionaries, is making an eternal, indescribable, miraculous difference. Watch closely.

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.

James: They literally had to pack up and move, and the people move, because there was a militia group coming to basically kill them and they would have targeted the missionaries. But they will go back and they will be in those villages.

Janice, I remember when we were held captive in Angola and I'd been held hostage before, been separated from Betty, from the rest of you, along with Peter. But on this occasion, Peter looked at me and said, "I don't know if we're going to get out of here this time." And God used a man that he had led to Christ, Albert who so shook up those militia and those military that were going to take us, not only our tapes, but it looked like our lives.

So we know what happened there. But the love of God, listen, those missionaries will be right back there. Our team didn't go home, they moved away from that area and went right back. And they went because the love of God is going, listen, those people you're looking at, nearly all of them had been led to Christ and they are so open to receive the gospel that is presented in love because it is a demonstration.

Janice, what has the Lord put on your heart that you want to share with our viewers today that I hope will stir their heart to be the hands of Jesus?

Janice: Well, first of all, in that situation, it was one of the most dangerous places I've been recently for sure since the time we were together. We were landing every day there on a small plane and that day we landed and thousands of people were fleeing with everything they had on their head. There were 15,000 militia coming that way. So we went in and we visited with them and we did what we can but we were told we had to leave. And like you said, we took out three of our partners, people out with us. We got back, immediately, they said, "We have to go back." They said, "We can't not be there. We need to help them." And they were sent right back.

And that is what it is out on the... That's what it is like. That's how our people are. That's the way they are. My heart is that we don't leave anybody behind. We begin to feed there and we are.

But we'll get in there, we'll get into the villages and we'll bring mission feeding which does save lives because without it, I've watched too many die, James. I've watched way too many die for lack of food. And my mind will never -- I don't care how many years I do this, will never reconcile with that because we have a way to change it.

So James, that's my heart and that's what my heart will always be. And I just want to bring it to the people and I want to say, please, please, please do what you can. Won't you be a part of it? When do you get a chance to be a part of something that you know will save a life? Not often. Please! Won't you join us?

You get to sit here and you get to ask the people and I don't. I go out but this opportunity, I'm saying, please! From somebody that's in the field, I'm asking you, I'm begging you, I would get on my knees right now and ask you to continue to feed children like these around the world because we are making a difference. I see it firsthand, James.

James: Oh boy! I'm just asking you, to be the resurrection life that is so desperately needed. I want you to just make up your mind right now. We've told you for years, \$30, \$50, or \$100 you can feed three, five or ten children for the next months. And you know I'll always ask you if you can feed ten, do it!

I'm looking at this bronze here, of this mother as she's got water on her head. A lot of them can't find water but our viewers have given them water where they've never had it. She's got a little child on her back. It's "A Mothers Strength." She would do anything for her baby!

And what they need so desperately is not just water, but boy, right now they need food. And she would go to any extent. We're sending this bronze to those of you who would help us save the lives of 100 children. We've saved, according to the missionaries that they've been able to track and confirm with the various nations of the world where we work, 15 million lives. But think of them one life at a time. Think of them, the ten children that you could literally give life to or 100 children if you made a \$1,000 gift and you joined with the strength of these mothers who are just praying for God to raise up their children to give them a future. Would you just say God, today,

let me go online or call in and make the greatest gift I've ever made?

You listen to the heart of God through a missionary as he talks about the love of a mother and the desires of their heart that you can fulfill, you can give the greatest gift, you can give life.

On the mission field:

Isak: I'm here with a lady called Fogel here in this village in South Sudan. I actually don't even know where to start to begin to explain to you what this lady has been through; five children that she had but she's lost two of them. Two precious little children that have been stolen away because of something that is so simple and yet so significant -- and that is the lack of food.

Open Captions:

>> The hunger came to kill my children. I think about it all the time. The sadness makes me physically sick. Sometimes I wish I could die, too.

Isak: We've asked her, "What is it that you need most?" And she said, "More than anything else, more than shelter, more than anything, what I need is food for my children. I have to have food to feed my children." Almost with a level of panic.

Open Captions:

>> When I think about what happened, I fear for my other children. It's hard to talk about. I cannot do anything to protect them from this. The most important thing is to keep my children alive.

Isak: I'm appealing to you from the bottom of my heart to please help us do something for this lady, and for the women that she represents all over this area. Women who are desperate for something called food.

This lady lost two of her five children in just one month. Who will be next? See, we can't wind back the clock on the two children she's lost but we can stop her from losing another one because your gift is the gift of life.

End of video

In the studio:

James: God, I just found myself praying for you and those you love. We did lose a daughter, okay? We have 11 grandchildren. We now have seven great grandchildren. You think we don't understand what it means to love a child? How precious!

Every one of you who are grandparents or parents or you just love kids, would you please make the greatest gift you can? Would you go get your checkbook and make a check to *LIFE*? Or would you go get your bankcard and call the number that's a prayer line for broken hearts of people who have loved ones that are sick or needy? Would you go on the website and make the gift? Boy, if you could give \$100 or \$1,000 I'll guarantee you, you sure will lighten a lot of mothers' loads for those beautiful little kids. They're so precious to them.

But don't think \$30 is too little -- three children, three people. Father, help everybody do what they can right now. We have some beautiful gifts to bless you with. Spiritual inspiration I promise you. But would you right now please get your bankcard or checkbook, make the gift God puts on your heart. If you mail it in, please call and tell us you're sending it. I want to tell those missionaries the support is on the way. You're going to be able to feed those children. You're going to be the miracle those mothers pray for.

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:

Janice: My name is Janice. I've been a photographer with the *LIFE Outreach* mission team for over 20 years. I've traveled all over the world trying to help children in need. Even though my heart is broken each trip by the amount of pain and suffering I've witnessed, I wasn't prepared for what I saw on our trip to South Sudan. This boy's name is Lazarus. His Christian mother gave

him this name and it's very fitting because Lazarus needs a miracle.

He wanted to see his picture a minute ago. I was scared to even show it to him because I don't know if he understands what he looks like. And I showed him and a man said he is saying, "Who is that? Who is that?" He can't even recognize himself.

[Sobbing]

Poor baby! Oh baby! There's thousands like this all over Sudan. We need to help them get a brand-new start. We need to help them grow and be children and have fun. All it takes is food -- food! It is so simple.

Jesus, give him a miracle.

End of video

In the studio:

James: Well, in behalf of Betty and all the missionaries, I thank you. Janice, I want to thank you for going to the ends of the world, literally, to put God's arms around people.

Let me just say to all of you as we say good-bye, I'm in my 70s. You know what we found out? The people that control the greatest resources on the planet are 60 and 70 and over -- 50 and over for sure. God has entrusted to our watch care at this time of being elders, the older, the resources to release more of the love of God than has been released in history. Let's do it! Let's be a part of that Great Awakening. Let's pour out the love of God. Thank you so much!