

12/10/20

Week 50: Fall Mission Feeding

James Robison

Garrett Miles and Michael Anthony Curtis

James: I'm so excited to have this time with you. I'm James Robison, *LIFE Today*. You're going to meet a young man that's blind but boy can he see. He's going to talk about a song and singing about a blind man can see Christmas. I can't say "Christmas" and not think about that wonderful gift.

A lot of you are saying, "Well, where's Betty?" If you hadn't heard earlier in the week she had detached retina surgery and that's face down 24/7, basically, as much as you can 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And the message was two to four, sometimes six weeks. Dear God! So you be praying for Betty. I know you are. She's going to be back here real, real soon. I'm her nurse, and I count it a joy to just be doing my best to take care of her. So she doesn't need a bunch of emails, just prayer. She wouldn't be able to read them all right now. So just thank you for your love.

Well, my guest, Michael Anthony Curtis has been here with me quite a few times. He and I have very similar backgrounds. He is a songwriter, mostly western songs and has been with some of the greatest western singers that you could ever know, all of them you know. He is a great singer himself. Michael Anthony is sitting here by Garrett Miles who is, he is blind. But I get the impression, I can almost see a glow coming off of him, a peace. Michael, tell our viewers, how did you come to know him? I know he was on *American Idol*, made it to Hollywood.

Michael: They got in the group rounds and they tried to make a dancing bear out of him, and Garrett goes, "That ain't me." So he said, "I'll just go my own way."

James: Well, you live close to him.

Michael: Well, his pastor called me and said, "Mike, I want you to help Garrett." God had put something in my heart, James about setting plumb lines and making sure people stayed on the right path. I asked Garrett, "Garrett, what do you feel God has called you to do?"

And Garrett said, "I'm supposed to reach the world through traditional country music."

I felt like I was really supposed to help him do that. So a couple months later he moved right down the road from me and he's been my little brother ever since.

James: I want him to tell us a little bit about his life and journey but then I want you to tell about the miracle that leads to the song that you're going to hear. I hope the whole world hears it, I mean right away, and you can.

But Garrett, tell me a little bit about your journey. Were you born blind or did something happen?

Garrett: I was born blind. I was diagnosed with optic nerve hypoplasia. What that is, it's where the optic nerve never fully develops. I didn't have any vision at all as an infant. My parents took me to Emory Hospital in Atlanta and the doctors told them that I would never be able to see, at all. And so I was probably about a year old and started getting some vision. My mom told me that when she saw that I was able to point out things and see some things, she just cried like a baby. We just always give glory to God for it.

When I was five years old, I had a few seizures and we didn't know how that was going to go. And my mom took me to the doctor to get it checked out. The doctors told my mom that I would never be able to attend a regular school, that I'd never be able to dress myself. Pretty much I'd be pegged helpless the rest of my life with a learning disability.

Well, I took that opportunity to go to a regular school and graduate classes, regular classes with honors in high school and college.

[Laughter]

James: Thank you, God!

Garrett: Now I live on my own. I'm loving every minute of it.

James: And you dressed yourself.

Garrett: I do.

James: Now you said you've got a little bit of vision. Are you still able to see shadows or anything at all? Where do you stand on that now?

Garrett: Well, I have a little bit of vision in my left eye and I can see light and colors and overall pictures. Like I can basically make out the overall image of you sitting there but like I can't make out small details like eye color and different things like that.

James: Do you think God sent Michael Anthony Curtis into your life?

Garrett: I do. Without a doubt!

James: Michael, tell us what happened when you all are sitting there talking and you got a zap. You've gotten some of them whether it blessed Randy Travis or Shelton or any of these people that you've been with over the years. What happened?

Michael: Well, when Pastor Don Butler called me and told me he wanted me to help, I got on the phone with Garrett and his parents. And like I said, I just was at the time

walking out what I felt was trying to help people set plumb lines and I felt like Garrett had a unique calling. When he moved close to me and the more I got to know him, James and I found out he could speak and sing in Spanish, we were actually playing a place one night and we had recorded the song in English and Spanish and there were these young men and women from about 17 to 25 that were Hispanic and I played them his English version and his Spanish version. They stayed four hours to meet him. I said, "Son, God is going use you. He's going to use you in English and Spanish. He is going to take a blind Alabama boy and he is going to use him."

And Garrett and I have been fortunate to write and record some real good music. And like I said, Randy and Mary Travis love him. I just think God is going to use him in a mighty way.

James: What happened when something took place between the two of you?

Michael: I take him about once a week and let him get grits because he loves grits. There is a place, a store called Stags and we go down there and get grits and gravy. We were coming back and Garrett says, "Mike, you know what my two favorite Christmas songs are?"

I said, "What's that, Garrett?"

He goes, "O Holy Night" and "The New Kid in Town." He just looked out the window, James Robison.

Man, I just felt the Lord come over me and I got emotional. I said, "Look at our God. Even a blind man can see Christmas."

Then the songwriter went, "Whoa! Garrett, let's write that! Would you be opposed to singing it?"

Garrett was like, "No."

So we got together and wrote it, finished it, Time Life Music has just released it. And we went back to Stags to celebrate the release.

James: Now you're going to hear it. You're going to be blessed. And you can get it. How do they get it? They go online or what? By the way, if people wanted Garrett to come to churches and places when we're able to all be together again, how would they communicate that?

Michael: James, they can go to GarrettMiles.com or they can go to MichaelAnthonyCurtis.com and request Garrett to come to their church or their venue.

James: Any city function.

Michael: Any city function. You can go to YouTube and look up Garrett Miles, "A Blind Man can see Christmas." And then it's on Apple Music, Spotify.

James: They can access the song if they like it, right? All right. Let's hear it right now. I'm just so upset because this place would be packed because this is a miracle and you're going to hear the miracle right now. Michael Anthony just wrote this song just like zap which God has given him that wonderful gift.

By the way, you'll want to know this. The most number of people that have ever called in during a *LIFE Today* program to give their life to Christ was Michael over here singing to me, a product of a forced relationship, his background, he had a really rough conception in life too. He didn't, none of us knew what all was going on. He sat and sang to me and 10,000 people got through and trusted Christ. And we jammed the entire AT&T phone system years ago. It was before they got as advanced as they are but we jammed it nationwide. So many people calling.

So I want you to listen right now to this, "A Blind Man Can See Christmas."

[Garrett sings]

I may never see the evergreen that reaches to the sky

Glitter, gold and silver

That you see with your eyes

Pretty bows and presents

The way you all get to

But a blind man can see Christmas

How about you?

'Cause that's not where you find it

Not even where you start

It don't take sight to see it

When you see it with your heart

Those winter lands of magic

And painted Christmas scenes

My imagination

I've seen only in my dreams

But I don't let it get me down

No, I won't be blue

Because a blind man can see Christmas

How about you?

Because that's not where you find it

Not even where you start

It don't take sight to see it

When you see it with your heart

I may never see the snow fall

As it tumbles to the ground

But I know that special feeling

When Jesus' holy love shines down
Yeah, he was born to save us all
His love is always true
Hey, a blind man can see Christmas
How about you?
Yes, we'll always see Christmas
How about you?

James: Boy, you don't know how much I wish everybody could see Christmas--the Christ of Christmas. Father, I pray that.

Garrett, you and Michael have a wonderful gift. Michael has made, highly emphasized to me to be sure everybody knows you all got that song together. But it was kind of a download, wasn't it, Garrett? Did you sense when he threw that title at you that the lyrics, the words just started coming.

Garrett: Well, I kind of sensed where I wanted to go with it for sure. But what happened was we'd gotten back to the house and he went and grabbed a guitar. And he already had that first verse in his head and he started playing it for me. And so I went back in the house and I just said, "Lord, if this is supposed to be, just give me the words to say that glorifies you." So it wasn't five minutes later I had what ended up being the last verse written and I sent it to him. And he said, "Love it!" So he called me back and said, "What do you say we go back to Stags in a little bit and finish the rest of it?"

James: Let me say this to all of you, don't you like to be a part of a miracle? I want you to really pray for Garrett. There is the address where you can go online. Michael Anthony Curtis, you see his information. You might say you know what? I've got the place, the church, the community, the opportunity, we want him to come bless us. So just take advantage of that.

Garrett, I want to pray right now. Father, I want you to bless Garrett beyond anything he

ever dreamed because he is seeing you, not just Christmas but you, and he wants your will to be done through his life even though he is blind. He's not bitter. He is better. He wants everybody to be better because of the better maker you. So you bless him. And you bless Michael Anthony; in Jesus' name.

Michael, what can we, our viewers do to be a real meaningful encouragement to you too?

Michael: Brother, we just want to come out to their churches and to wherever they are and just be a light of the Lord. We want to come and bring our music, bring our testimonies. You know mine. Garrett wants to tell his. If it's a home concert, if it is a church, it don't matter if it is 25 or 25,000, we just want to leave script and purse behind and just go.

James: I want to encourage all of you to, there again take note of how you can communicate with them. I want you to really pray for them.

Garrett, I don't know, not being able to see all we do but our ministry, and I've been saying this to people a lot, that in the last years of my life, if I live to be 100, I'm certainly in the last quarter of my life because I'm 77. But I'm living for kingdom impact now. One of the main emphases I have is I want to get the body of Christ to come together like a healthy family, like a healthy body. The thing I've been saying is I want us to get God's arms around the world he gave his son to redeem. And the only way we can get God's arms around the world is do it as his body, as the church--a healthy church, not with amputated body parts all over the desert, but with a healthy family.

So Garrett, I want you to really be praying for us here, and we're really going to be praying for you. I'm hoping people all over the world see this, start praying for you. I'm hoping many of you will just get that address and we're going to be praying for you.

Garrett: Well, I appreciate that.

James: I know you do. And I know you do too, Michael. You've been such a great help to everybody just pointing them to Jesus. I've watched you get God's arms around a lot of broken people, some of them entertainers that really need a lot of love. And buddy, you're a vessel of love.

That's what all of you are who watch. Garrett, you don't know this and you won't be able to see it but we feed hungry children all over the world, millions of them. We've saved millions of lives. When I say "we" that's our viewers. So right now we're in our mission feeding emphasis. I'm going to ask all of our viewers, you cannot only see but you can see the will of God, and the will of God is to get his arms around the least of these. Jesus said, "When you notice the hungry, the thirsty, those that are bound, in prison, those that are needy and you touch them, you touch me. You minister to me."

Will you please right now watch prayerfully? Not just focus carefully but prayerfully, and say God, how can I be the miracle that's needed in that life? I want to be. Watch closely because I believe you will be.

On the mission field:

Isak: I am an African. This is my country. I came from this land. These are my people. And when the children of our continent die, when the children of our continent suffer, when they go to bed without a meal, I suffer. I feel their pain. I feel it like they're my own children.

Open Captions: Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. Psalm 127:3.

Isak: James, I know that you feel the same. Betty, I know that that's in your heart. Because when you came here and you were exposed to what my dad showed you so many years ago, more than 30 years ago, you responded in the same way that we respond. James, I saw how yours and Betty's hearts were broken as though these were

your children, as though these were your people, and you adopted the children of Africa as your own.

And you went back, and you asked the friends of *LIFE*, you asked your friends to respond, to give whatever they could give. You described to them how desperate the situation was and they opened their hearts and they responded.

So James, I'm asking you please, please appeal to the friends of *LIFE*. Help us, James! Help me to help our children like you helped my dad those many years ago, and like you've helped us year after year consistently to save the lives of millions and millions of children on this continent, our children, your children.

James, please, help us today. Help us to save our children. We cannot do it without you, and I know that in your heart you see them as yours. So I'm asking you today, James, I'm asking you, Betty, please do whatever you can do. Speak to your friends, speak to the friends of *LIFE* and ask them to open their hearts and give the very best gift they can give.

End of video

In the studio:

James: By, I just want to say, Peter, we love you. He's in the next kingdom, but boy, he impacted this kingdom while he was here and still does.

Watching me and Betty in black hair, both of us look so young, more than 30 years ago, and we've never stopped putting God's arms around those precious people that God gave Jesus to die for. And you and I, because of the love of Jesus in our heart have been saving millions of children's lives now for so many years.

Betty and I are not as young as we were then at all; likely you're not, but all of us together have been putting God's arms around those precious people he loves so much. I don't

have the ability to share as effectively as I feel like you need to hear it. The deep appreciation we, along with the missionaries have for your prayers, your love and your support to say that it changes everything for people is almost like an understatement because the change is so dramatic now that it gives them a chance at life and for many of these mothers, the greatest joy they'll ever have.

They don't have a lot of entertainment around. Their baby, their children are their source of joy. And when that's being ripped out, only the joy that Jesus puts in our heart that we share because of the love that puts that joy there, and the grace and the gift that put it there, because we reach out, it changes everything beginning now. But also for eternity because these missionaries first reveal and demonstrate the love of God. They demonstrate the life of the kingdom of God and the reality of that king and his love. And when they demonstrate it, then it is easy to believe in the Father of the family that loves like that.

That's what you're doing. I'm telling you, you're the greatest expression. You say, no! Those missionaries and what all of you were doing. You can't do it if you don't do what God has gifted you to do--to pray and also to say, I'm going to send you over there. I'm sending the gospel, not only in word, but in demonstration. Because we don't just teach the word in word only, but we teach it in deed, in action. That's what you're doing.

Would you right now, would you get a bankcard or get a check? Whatever it takes. If you get a bankcard use it like a check. But would you go online and make that gift now? Or would you call that number and use that card and say, "I'm making this gift." Could you give \$100 and feed ten children? We always make it clear that \$30 and \$50 will feed three or five for the next months. But listen to me, \$100 feeds ten.

Do you know a lot of you have the ability to give \$1,000 or several thousand? I'm going to tell you right now, Isak said, "James, in those very areas where we've got hundreds of thousands of children and families right now that we're feeding, we're watching more come every day because of the pandemic. James, we may be crying out beyond any time

in the past even, please help."

Father, show every person not only what they can do but what they should do, in Jesus' name.

Please, we have some gifts to send you. We want to be a blessing to you to say thank you. But you really are giving the greatest gift, you're giving life. Would you please make that gift right now as God leads? Thank you so much.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Today on top of the daily fight for life and food, families and children across Africa are now forced to deal with the challenges of a global health crisis. Because of COVID-19 food scarcity has increased drastically and the fear of dying from lack of food is far greater than the virus itself.

Even in these unprecedented times, mission feeding won't stop. With your help, mission feeding will continue to be a daily source of food, encouragement, and health for the 350,000 children counting on us.

Call now with your lifesaving 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 *40 Days of Healing Promises*. This beautiful hardcover devotional will encourage you in your faith as you dive deep into the healing promises that are yours in Jesus' name.

With your gift of \$100 or more please request the "Blessings for your Home" bowls and tea towel set. This set of bowls and two beautifully designed tea towels will make a wonderful addition to your home and serve as a reminder of your help in blessing others as a friend of *LIFE*.

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:

Sheila: I've seen in ways I've never imagined. I've seen what death looks like in a child's eyes.

And now what I see, I see life in every bowl.

If you want to be a part of this, and why wouldn't you want to be a part of this? Then just go to your phone right now and say, "Hey, I want to keep..."

[Sheila hands a bowl to a child] There you go, darling.

I want to be a part. I want to keep this going. I want to make sure that not just in this village, but in every other village where children are starving, that we're able to simply give them one bowl of food.

I've seen what happens when this is not available, and I've seen what happens when it is available. This works! This literally changes lives one life at a time, one bowl at a time; and we can't stop now.

End of video

In the studio:

James: I just say thank you for being a miracle. As we approach the greatest celebration of the greatest gift, let's give life, "*LIFE*: Live it, give it." We're sending the beautiful towels that have the beautiful greatness of God and his word, his truth, "The greatest of these is love." And these for those of you who will give \$100 we're sending the *40 Days*

of Healing Promises to all of you who make any gift.

I want to remind you because Garrett, you all have blessed us, Garrett, you and Michael. I want to say that you can go to iTunes or any place music is purchased and you can get this song and enjoy it. I really hope you'll be praying for them because it will mean a lot to him. Thank you guys for being with us.

Garrett: Thank you for having us.

James: Thank y'all for watching. Thanks for sharing life.