

2/14/22

Week Eight: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Tim Conway #1

JAMES: I want to tell you something. You don't know how bad -- I don't know if we're going to have a lot of people here, and maybe ever again. It really is okay because I will bring people like, we have a musical group, and everybody wants to see them, and you want to be here with them? Yeah!

Or maybe we have a speaker or a writer that everybody loves, and you get -- but for me and Betty, listen to me, let me kind of talk to you real personal. We not only would like to get our arms around you with no fear of COVID, we want to get God's arms around you -- and don't miss the next sentence -- so you can put God's arms around all the brokenhearted people and the lonely people, and the divorced people, and the unemployed people, and the poor people, and the arrogant people so you could get God's arms around all of them and show them clearly how much he loves them.

Betty, somehow people believe our family loves each other. That was one of our dreams. God has made it very clear that he captured my heart to know what his dream is, and his dream is for his family to not only love him and the neighbor, but to love one another like the family he desires, he dreams of, gave his Son to die that it might happen, raised him to live in us.

So, Betty, there is a lot of sorrow, a lot of broken hearts, a lot of losses, but God says in Proverbs, "Laughter is good medicine." Tim Conway, now listen, went to be with the Lord. But he came here. I wish you could see the handwritten note when he met his new best friends, but he really met somebody a whole lot closer. I want you to get ready to

laugh and have some good medicine with Tim Conway. He was coming back; he got ill, he never got to get back. But to his new, very best friends and that one, and you'll hear about that cross in the program, the next program, tomorrow. I want you to get ready to take some medicine that will make you better. Tim Conway is right here with us on *Life Today*.

Begin video clip

JAMES: Betty, you and I have been married 44 years, we're getting older, and Tim Conway is quite a bit older than we are and he is here. We're hoping for all of you who are here that he is able to get out where we can talk to him because like I said -- by the way, they did the Carol Burnett reunion, the highest rated show on CBS the entire year and this is good clean stuff. I like clean stuff. Would you like to welcome Tim Conway if he can get out here? I'm not sure he can get out here.

[Cheers & Applause]

[laughter]

[Applause]

TIM: Thank you so much. This is wonderful! My gosh, it is cold in here. Anyway! Terrific! Incidentally, you can't buy this in the store. This is the only copy we have.

[Laughter]

Yeah, and if somebody buys that, I'll take it over to their house.

Hi! How are you doing back there? It is great and it is so wonderful to see you folks! How many of you saw Harvey and I when we were here in uh... uh Dallas? Where are we?

JAMES: Dallas/Fort Worth area.

TIM: Pretty exciting, wasn't it! [Whistles]

[Laughter]

It was great. We worked for about eight years; we did kind of a Carol Burnett Show type thing on the road and worked with Harvey for eight years -- very, very nice guy to be with.

JAMES: Was he sharp? Was he on top --.

TIM: Very sharp! Oh, he is bright -- but he cannot tie his own shoe. Harvey is a little gullible; he really is. I had a lot of fun with him for eight years. He believes everything I say... which is scary!

He had a suitcase one time, and he had a lock on it. You know you get those locks where the first numbers are 000. Anybody knows that... but him. So he comes to me, we're in the hotel and he goes, "Look, somebody locked my lock on my luggage here. They probably did it at the airport."

I said, "Well, I used to do a little bank robbing and stuff. I could take that lock off there if you want."

He said, "See if you can." So I put my ear up to the lock and --

[Laughter]

I look at it and I see 000 so I opened it. He said, "I don't believe that! That is --."

So I locked it again and I turned it.

He said, "No, just leave it open."

I said, "No, no, you don't understand. If you want me to open this again, it will be five bucks!"

So every time he opened it he had to pay me five bucks. I made a living out of it.

But he's terrific.

Louise DuArt, as you know, you've had her on the show many times -- sensational. Eight years she was with us. She didn't do anything, she was just with us.

[Laughter]

But she is a trooper.

JAMES: How was it working with Carol?

TIM: Oh, terrific. She is the most generous celebrity or star or whatever I've ever met. We are very, very close. She has an ATM window at her house –

[Laughter]

So we don't even have to go in anymore. You know what I mean? Don't have to ask or anything. She is open on weekends. It's great. Put the old card in there, get your \$20 and go home.

JAMES: Tell me about working with Don Knotts.

TIM: Don Knotts and I -- Don is really the reason I'm in the business. I used to watch the old Steve Allen show with Don Knotts, Louis Nye, Tom Poston and the men on the street and Steve and -- I just love -- we all do. I can tell by your age... we're all the same.

[Laughter]

I mean Don, that face, it just told his whole life; it was so expressive and everything. So Don and I did a lot of movies together. I wrote a couple for he and I, or him and I, or Don and I, or all of us. And we did a couple together and he's just -- he is exactly -- was in real life as he was on the show with what's his name. It doesn't matter -- no, Barney Fife. Everybody would always give him a bullet wherever we went. Hey! He would throw them in the fireplace. Gee!

[Laughter]

But Don was a complainer. So we were doing this movie for Disney. We were near Sacramento. It was very cold, and it is cowboy country up there -- I mean real cowboy country.

Hi, how are you doing? [Splbb]

How you doing? You like that?

We were supposed to be these dance hall dandies and we had on these little tutu skirts and stockings and everything. It was cold out there so when we'd go in the morning and get dressed in these trailers Don would go, "You know, Tim, it is freezing in there. I don't understand why they don't put heat in there. I'm freezing my --. Boy, I don't know!"

I said, "Don, why don't you get --" because we were kind of rooming together. I had a room here and there was a door and there was Don and so we were kind of together.

I said, "Don, why don't you get dressed in the morning in these clothes and go to work -- just put a coat on or something then you don't have to get undressed when you get there in the dressing room."

He said, "Well, that's a pretty good idea, Tim. I think I'll do it."

So, the next day he is all dressed, and I drive because I don't trust him.

[Laughter]

So I drive to work. He says, "This is really great. This is sensational because I'm not cold anymore."

A couple nights later we go home, he is still dressed like this, got a raincoat on over this stuff. So I said, "Don, I'm going to go to the bar, so you go over to the room or whatever."

He said, "Okay."

So I'm in the bar with these cowboys. "Hi, how are you doing? Actor, huh?"

So I'm sitting there. Now Don comes in, he forgot his key. So I'm sitting there with these cowboys and Don comes in still with the dress on and the --.

[Laughter]

And I'm at the bar and he's standing there. He says, "Tim, you got the key to that room?"

[Laughter]

These cowboys are kind of looking like, whoa! I said, "Don't you think we ought to talk about price first?"

[Laughter]

He was just a little angry at me.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Okay, hang on. I hope you feel better. Betty, do you think laughter is good medicine?

BETTY: Absolutely! I hope you enjoyed that, and you've gotten the laughter out. Because it takes the stress away, James. Some people are just really down on themselves. God says that laughter is good for the soul and the spirit. So have fun when you get a chance to laugh.

JAMES: Really and truly now, I'm going to tell you the reason, okay, Tim Conway left us not long ago. You're going to want to watch tomorrow because something really wonderful happened to Tim while he was here. You know there is no way you get a handwritten note talking about how you, "James and Betty, you're now my new very best friends." You know something, in a way, we want to be as good of friends as you'll ever have. As a matter of fact, we want to be family that you can't hardly wait for the family gathering to be with.

I really want you to hear this. Laughter is good medicine, but some people say I just have such a hard time laughing. I think you just laughed. And Tim's watching. Tim, glad to be your friend, buddy. I hope he can look down and see a lot of people finding out that laughter and a joyful heart are really good medicine. I want you to experience the fullness of joy; the joy of the Lord is our strength. That doesn't just mean the happy joy in us, but the fact that we're giving the Lord joy is a strength because it pleases the Father to see his family look the way he desires them to look.

Betty, I think one reason we've invited the family into the family room -- now you do know I've been on television 52 or 54 years since Billy Graham told a 25-year-old that God told him, are you listening? God told Billy Graham when he's praying alone, James Robison, 28-years-old, needs to be on television all the time. You don't, Billy. James does. You do the crusades, and James is going to be there every week, ultimately every day pointing people to you, and he's going to be effective. We didn't know Betty was

going to be sitting here, but God did. But Billy knew. It took me five days to pray; I didn't want to be on television. I liked to look at people. I even said to Billy, "I'm not an actor; I've got to see the people." He said, "Believe me, they'll be watching."

Well, I'm telling, you are watching. Now don't miss this. God wants you to see him and hear the Father from this father, grandfather, great-grandfather so you can show the world how much the Father loves every one of them. And we, as his family, he calls us his body, we're the only ones that could reveal to the world he gave his Son to die for how awesome he is, how great his salvation is, how great his love is, the courage and conviction and compassion that he wants to fill us to overflowing with so that we find everything that he says brings healing to the body, the mind, the soul, the spirit. And we can enjoy life more abundantly than anyone could describe it or even imagine it, but we can experience it.

Betty, that's what our viewers have been doing. You know something? The viewers are just going [spttt] like that. They're saying we're so sick of seeing the devil's fruit, we're so sick of seeing what the father of lies is producing on God's planet. And the shepherds are allowing the sheep to be slaughtered and God says stop it! Don't let the enemy devour and divide my sheep, slaughter them in the womb, and cast aside everything that matters for their benefit. Don't let it happen anymore. Stop it!

Betty, if everybody out here, and everybody God's trying to use you to get their attention to focus on him, if we'd stand up right now, we can defeat the enemy, the gates of hell do not prevail against the impact of God's body, his family. Are you ready to stop the enemy from slaughtering the sheep and killing the innocent -- even the most innocent? Are you ready to say this is God's planet!

And Satan -- Satan, you will not walk over us! We have the ability to choose leaders, wisdom and to pray for a total transformation. That's why we're here. It's not only laughter, it's not just talking about what he says, it's not just carrying the Bible, it's the Bible, the word carrying you in your heart, flowing like a river through you.

You know what you've been doing? When you see the thirsty, you say let's give them water. When you've heard me say so many times, "If you want your prayers answered, seek to be an answer to somebody's prayers." Betty, people's hearts are jumping, and they're saying, I know how much I want my prayers answered. Do you mean I could be the answer to somebody's prayer? You better believe you can be. And you're proving it. You're saving millions and millions of lives by feeding the starving, setting the sex-trafficked free, and giving water to the thirsty and drilling wells.

Betty, I want our viewers to go back. We've been doing this 25-30 years. We've been feeding longer than that. I want you to see in the early days when we started finding contaminated water, not just in Africa, all over the world, you're going to see a guy that may look a little bit like me, but he's got coal-black hair. That's how long we've been doing this. You probably had little darker hair too. I want you to look in and see what God's love is doing through you. Watch it!

On the mission field

JAMES: It's hard to believe that these children here are actually drinking this water. It is absolutely filthy. As a matter of fact, you can see the cans here floating in the water. This is what they were drinking out of when we walked up here. I want you to look at how dirty that water is. This is what they're drinking. If you can see that when I pour it out, I mean just absolutely filthy!

ANNOUNCER: Over two decades ago, James and Betty witnessed firsthand a deadly problem that still plagues nearly 800 million people today. Lack of access to clean drinking water results in waterborne illnesses, and oftentimes, death.

These two little boys, Dominique and Augustine's trek for water, became an inspiration for the ministry as we sought to help those in need of clean water. Their portrait is still displayed at *LIFE Outreach's* ministry headquarters as a reminder that it is possible to see

wells of clean water spring up even in the most desolate regions in the world.

JAMES: That is what we're after. That water will soon be clean, a steel-cased well. But this is life! This is Water for LIFE right here. And we're drilling these wells, two of them every three days. Millions of people are dying for a lack of clean water and because of waterborne diseases. Let's give them clean water!

ANNOUNCER: Let's give them clean water. Those words have been the heart cry that inspired our mission teams to locate people in countries throughout the world who do not have access to clean water -- places like eastern Europe, in isolated regions of the Amazon river of South America, into the highlands of Central America, then to countries in south and southeast Asia. And finally, back full circle to the region of the world where our mission first began, Southern Africa.

In response to the need for clean water, *LIFE Outreach*, along with our mission partners, have drilled over 7,000 wells. Now over 7 million people in 20 countries live a life free from the fear of sickness and death because they have a freshwater well in their village.

SHEILA: This is what love is all about! The fulfillment of seeing *LIFE Outreach International* water well right here so that these children could grow up and have healthy, happy lives.

If you've helped us do this, thank you so much! James and Betty, I bet this makes you very, very happy. But the need is still great. Let's do this again, and again, and again until this is the norm in Zambia and villages all around the world. Cheers!

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: I know you might think, boy, James, you started a long time ago marching into hell, literally. Everywhere we went, Betty, we were told we'd be lucky to get out alive.

Everywhere! I went fearlessly; you didn't go so fearlessly, but you went.

BETTY: I went.

JAMES: And we saw the need. We had to sell some stuff, and this studio lay on the ground for three to four years, just concrete waiting to be tilted up until the missionaries tilted up and built the studio. I said, "I won't take any money that will keep us from doing what God showed us."

When I saw the hungry children, the thirsty children, I didn't know who would help, but I knew what we would do. And boy, Betty and I have been doing it. We have never given to something God laid on our hearts because we thought we'd get something back. We only think about what that love is giving. Somehow you've been captured by the love of God. You need to understand those thousands of wells, and please understand millions of people are getting water, but there are millions of people who have none. I won't stop praying until everybody has not only Water for LIFE but knows it comes because of the water of life. So many of you are getting that. It's capturing you.

By the way, what you need to understand is hundreds of churches, even hundreds of ministries all over the world watching *Life Today*, have started doing the same thing, and they're also drilling wells. Some of them are drilling very expensive wells that cost \$100,000. We drilled one well for a quarter of a million dollars that gives water every day to a half million people. We drill, though, in the villages that the least of these and the unnoticed are in. You have said we want to give them water. Many of you say drilling a well is the greatest joy. They say they want to drill a whole well. We live to give a well, and we live to give food.

Betty, we're on television to give water to you, spiritual water, and then you're able to give drinking water. We point to the water of life that inspired you to give them life. Betty, isn't it exciting what God's people can do?

BETTY: It really is. Every time I see those children jumping up and down and hollering and screaming with joy, they're saying to you, thank you so much! I might not be here if it hadn't been for your love giving to help drill the water wells. So let's don't stop. There is such a need still. Please join us again.

JAMES: I've told you, you can hear God's voice out loud. He said, "My sheep know my voice." The shepherd just said to me, "Be sure and tell them that they may not see them here, but one day they're going to see many children who are in heaven who say thank you for giving me water. But I'm here with you because his love through you gave me eternal life where I will never thirst and what will be in the fullness of his joy. Thank you.

The wells cost an average because we've been able with a lot of focus to keep the cost at \$4800 a well. We have some beautiful gifts for you. This *Bible Promises* is going to light you up for any gift. We have a beautiful throw that will bless you, and it will warm you when you need it. The bronze of Jesus and the children, that's what you're doing; you're putting his arms around the little children that come.

I'm praying God will give us more support right now. I think there are some people watching who could give five water wells. I once said, "I think there is a man in this room who can give ten."

He looked at his wife and said, "We can," and wrote a \$48,000 check.

Somebody said, "Tell them that every time."

I said, "I don't play games. I don't try to manipulate people. I try to stir their hearts."

I think there is somebody who can drill several wells. Many of you want to. Most of the support comes from people with \$48, which gives ten people water for the rest of their life.

Father, help every person go to the phone or go online, take their bank card, use it like a check and give what you're putting on their heart. I pray they run to get the card. Just like they would run to give a drink of water to a thirsty child or a dying adult because they are thirsty. Would you do it right now? Thank you. Thank you!

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Waterborne illness is a killer that strikes the most vulnerable. For many impoverished families, the death of a child is the tragic result of having no choice but to drink contaminated water. But with your help, they won't have to make this choice ever again. Mission: Water for LIFE provides clean, fresh drinking water for thousands of children and their families, giving them a life free from the fear of death.

With your gift today, you can help drill and establish 350 water wells this year. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. \$72 will provide for 15. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With your gift, we'll send you *Bible Promises For Life*, the ultimate handbook to everything God guarantees you in his word. A powerful resource that will give you the confidence to face life's troubles. With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the "I Will Give You Rest" throw. It is a reminder of our Savior's promise of rest to those who trust in His grace and love.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. You may request our new, inspiring bronze sculpture, "Let the Children Come."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: I'm just sitting here thanking God for you. Some of you are new partners, but you're going to be a lifetime partner giving life. Some of you have been with us clear back to when I had black hair. By the way, Betty still looks the same.

BETTY: My hair is still the same color.

JAMES: It is. Your hair is amazing! It is the same color. We love you so much. Thank you for helping us share God's love so clearly, so effectively. We'll send you some gifts that will bless you, but you're giving the greatest gift. You're giving life. Thank you!