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Week 27: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Mission special #1

JAMES: Well, we want to welcome you to *Life Today*. I don't know whether you may need a miracle in your life right now but just let me pause a moment. I don't know what's going on in your world and the people in your family, friends, or just people you care about.

Father, we do believe in miracles, and we've needed a lot of them in our lifetime. We've witnessed a lot of them and then we've seen where we were puzzled. But I want to ask you for a miracle today in the life of every viewer that's watching that needs a miracle. I'm asking you to hear their prayer. I'm asking you to give healing and restoration in relationships physically, spiritually, mentally, and financially. Just have your way, in Jesus' name.

Just kind of look really close here at us. Let me say something to you just very directly, just us. We all need miracles. Do you know what our viewers have told me that's as special to them as anything they've ever heard? They said, James, we have been promised that God hears prayer and that God answers prayer, not necessarily the way we want to hear it or on our timetable, but we know we're not wasting time to pray. And we like the illustration, this is what they tell me where you talk about focused prayer, when everybody is praying for the same challenges, it's like taking the power of the Colorado River and forcing it through a turbine or a system of turbines. You can light up the whole Sonoran Desert! Arizona is proof of that. Brought a desert to life -- amazing life! Focused power through a turbine, that's what we do when we pray together.

Well, we need miracles today. Do you know what other people have told me? Not only does it bless us to hear you say if you want your prayers answered why don't you become an answer to someone's prayer? And then you've told me that when I say to you if you've ever needed a miracle or you need a miracle, how about you asking God to make you a miracle in somebody's life -- the very miracle they long for.

Betty, we can talk about needs and miracles that are needed, but you think okay, we need medical miracles, we need all these different miracles. But we don't have them yet, we don't have the cure for cancer, maybe we can have some approaches, but what if we have a perfect cure? What if there's a perfect miracle? And it is as simple as saying, I want to be the miracle. And then we show you how you can be a miracle.

One of the greatest miracles -- don't miss this -- one of the greatest miracles in the world, Jesus said, "If you give just a cup of water --," think about it -- "If you give just a cup of water in my name you won't lose your reward." Now don't get caught up in determining rewards. Don't start telling God how to bless. You can ask him. But he says, "If you give a cup of water in my name, you will receive the reward." And for Betty and me, when we give a cup of water or a well of water, we feel like we have received the reward by watching what that love does.

I want you to go on a journey with us. Go back -- Betty, when we go back my hair was about as black as this blouse you have on. I think dear God! It wasn't too many years back either. But just see where this journey started because this was a journey of miracles, saving millions of lives. I'm telling you, watch this. I think you'll enjoy it. I'm not going to do anything to my hair. Okay?

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 are living 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

BETTY: I love that! It should be the norm. Children should be able to play around and see the water wells. You and I have been there. That's my favorite part, is to see after we've gotten the water wells, and the children are just so excited. They're playing around and they're drinking that fresh water. It is just so wonderful!

JAMES: When they do that, we don't just let kids go every day and play in the water. It's too precious. But when we come to an area and they know the people that gave them water are coming, they let them play in it. It is just a beautiful thing. You may not know this, but at many of the places where there's an area that we know they're going to keep coming, or there is a school or gathering place nearby, we put a merry-go-round in that is the pump. So the missionaries are very creative.

We're always working, think about this, we're always working to put your love in effect for more people. We're working all the time to make life better so that you not only receive life and experience life, but you then develop to share life.

God, thank you for that! I want you to see -- just see up close really, what love does. And know that if you will give a cup of water, think about this, a well costs \$4800. Many people tell us it is the greatest joy of each year to drill a well. We have churches, small country churches, "We drill a well every year." We've got little school classrooms in public schools as low as the second grade that would drill a part of a well. A few of these

elementary school classrooms drill a well. It is exciting. Just watch this and then say, God, let me do my part. Watch closely. Go put a smile on your face.

On the mission field

Tammy: So this is their water source I'm assuming? This is my first encounter here and I can already tell that there is so much to be done. This is where they have to come every day all the way down here to get their water. This is his only source of water.

James: Well, you see this is a nice little flow of water right here but upstream is horses and cows and pigs. And right up the hill, eight children died from contaminated water here. There is so much here in Central America and the poverty-stricken nations, it just touches your heart. It is endless.

Randy: Weena here lost her older brother, and a year later her older sister, both of them victims of waterborne illness.

I want to look at this water. I would never make a child drink this -- but these children have no choice. It is this or nothing. It's not enough to tell them, "Don't drink the water." We have to say, "Here's water you can drink."

Tammy: This is my favorite – absolute favorite part of these trips. These people are going from death to life in just a moment's time.

Betty: Please help us! I know this would be a desire of your heart too, just as James and I do. We desire to pass on the blessings. We have been so mightily blessed ourselves and we want to bless these families. So join with us, please. Will you?

End of clip

In the studio

JAMES: I love watching that little child! Hey! Come on, let's give them water. Betty, it is just the most beautiful thing in the world to know that we become the miracle that is the miracle we prayed for for our daughter that we never got, the healing from cancer. And I've said to you and I'll say it as long as I'm alive, not a person watching me that wouldn't have rushed to wherever we were, our home or hospital, found us at church, "Here is a perfect cure." I know you would.

But we have the perfect cure for these children. We have the perfect cure for all these families. And I'm believing right now Betty we're in the ending days of this emphasis, we're running out of time, 350 water wells. I've said, God, give us a miracle, we go past that, but we've got to get there because we've told the missionaries we're targeting your area, and they're at least giving some hope. Well, what we want to do is tell them a well is coming, the drilling rig is coming. We're going to drill it because we have the resources. I'm just believing that -- I'm believing everybody watching is going to do something.

BETTY: We can tell the missionaries to expect it, James but only if our friends of *LIFE Outreach* join with us and help us get the gifts that we need and the equipment we need to get in there and do the wells, drill the wells for these people so that we can get water to everybody that's in need. Because the water does, it is a matter of life and death for these children, for all the people there; that we can get there in time and make the difference as we've shown you over and over again, the results of what you've been able to do by drilling the water wells. It's you! It is not just us. It is all of us joining together and making that difference.

JAMES: When we come to you and make like a 350 well challenge, now we're moving to the end of it, where we've got to wrap this up, we know there is water. The missionaries show us the need. You can see the effects of contaminated water, it is horrible! They dig far enough, sometimes less than 100 feet, they hit water, but it becomes contaminated water literally in a matter of days, just the way they try to get it

out and stuff falls in it. Animals, all kinds of junk gets in there. It gets contaminated fast. It's as dangerous as the water that is not subsurface, that is standing water -- or a creek or maybe even a running river that's contaminated with all the animal's feces and the animals in it.

So what we know is there is good water, and we have the drilling rigs basically that our viewers over the years provide and they even restore them when they need to be repaired. That's what you do. You're the miracle worker. You're the miracle people long for and that's what we ask you to be right now.

So we need you to help drill a well: 350 of them. We're down at the end and we're running out of time. So I'm praying that everyone who can drill a well, \$4800 will, if you can, or you give a part of that and pray others to join you, \$1200, three join; \$2400, one joins, we've got a well. Most people, I'm going to say it because it is the truth, \$48, 10 people water the rest of their life. Basically, that's what it amounts to.

So would you go and get a check and make it to *LIFE* and call us and tell us you're mailing it? Please do that. We need to know. Or get your bank card, go online or dial that number and use that bank card as a check and know that you're giving life. We have some beautiful gifts to send you to say thank you. I promise you they will bless you. We send you that which will inspire and bless you and encourage you. The seasonal devotional, all four seasons will bless you. The coasters will bless you. They're a testimony and of course, the bronze. Right now, please, just do what God is leading you to do. Go get that bank card or mail that check. You're giving life. Thank you so much!

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Across the globe, hundreds of thousands of lives are lost each year to waterborne disease, and nearly half of those are children under the age of five. Through Mission: Water for LIFE, you can give mothers hope and children a future as we provide

clean, life-giving water for thousands of children and their families before it is too late.

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 of any amount, we'll send you the *God's Daily Promise* devotional set. These four seasonal devotionals each contain a daily scripture, inspirational message, and room to journal your prayers and insights from God's Word.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the "Faith, Hope, and Love" coaster set. All four beautiful sandstone coasters come in an elegant natural wood holder and artistically display the words of First Corinthians 13:13.

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. And you may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Let the Children Come."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

Open Captions

>> His name was Chimomo. We were so happy to have him. He always made us laugh. He was three years old. The diarrhea started, but we had no way to transport him to the hospital. We finally found a bicycle and traveled as fast as we could. But we never made it. He died along the way.

Announcer: Put yourself in Cecilia's place. Your tiny son struck down by the very water that should sustain him. Waves of grief that leave you breathless. The unrelenting fear

that screams at you from every bucket of water you draw from the village's only source. Water containing the same contaminants that killed your son. Water you have no choice but to give to your other children.

Open Captions

>> I will never forget what happened to my son. Each time I go to the water, I remember. I am trapped by fear when I see my other children drinking the dirty water.

Announcer: Like countless mothers in Africa, Cecilia is so strong despite the dire situation that threatens those she loves. With courage and humility, she spoke to us from her heart in a language not her own, desperate to be understood as she pleaded on behalf of her village.

Open Captions

>> We are asking for the borehole (well). We are suffering here at Seshia village. We drink dirty water in the streams. We are asking for help.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Wow! That's pretty sad that she says we're asking for a borehole. She doesn't even realize, she knows how contaminated the river is, all that's in it, what it's doing but she's heard that down under the ground, and she's probably maybe seen some somewhere, but she doesn't have any idea how fast that gets contaminated which is why the well is such a miracle.

BETTY: It really is, James. As I was listening to her, her heartbreak over losing her child, and every time she goes back to that same water source with her other children, she remembers the child she lost. And I was watching and walked toward that water knowing they were going to drink that water, that it's all they have, I thought, that is a walk of death if we don't change it. It is the loss of the other children and many, many more

children around if we don't make it a water of life, the water for them to go to so that they might live.

JAMES: Betty, I'm believing God's going to give us a miracle and I believe you are the miracle. It is a death walk. It can become a walk of life and it becomes like an oasis. It becomes like a miracle dream or vision fulfilled, answered prayer. Would you, and I'm telling you right now we need to hear from you, we really do because we've got to let the missionaries know it is going to be drilled in your village. They've already shown us the need, we know the water is there subsurface, we know that. Sometimes it is 250 feet, sometimes it is 350, very few instances do we have to go deeper; if we do then it costs more. But we're believing God for the resources. We know the water is there, we need to get the well in place.

Would you right now write a check and make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're putting it in the mail? We need to know. We need to know now. Would you get a bank card and use it like a check? Go online, please, take that card. Dial that number that's there where people are calling for prayer and many trust Christ to give their life to the Lord. Would you call that number and use that bank card like a check and make the gift God puts on your heart? If you can give a well, \$4800, or part of a well, please do it. And remember, \$144 will give 30 people water for the rest of their life. \$48 gives ten people water for the rest of their life. There is a level at which you can participate.

Father, I pray everyone watching will do what you lead them to do and do it joyfully knowing they are becoming the miracle a mother, a parent longs for, someone needs, in Jesus's name.

Please become the miracle someone needs. Become the answered prayer. Thank you so much for doing it.

Begin video clip

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End of video**On the mission field**

Announcer: One hundred hours. On average, that is how long the human body can survive without water. In the face of death by dehydration, water like this is the only

choice for many. Recently, while in East Africa, we spoke with Fatina, a mother personally impacted by this crisis.

Open Captions

>> One year ago, my child had a problem of diarrhea. So I tried to help him. When we went to the clinic, they said it was because we drink unclean water. While we were there, my child died.

Announcer: Unclean water is a common hardship throughout the world. And when something is common it is easy to get used to. But should losing a child ever be something we get used to?

Contaminated water has already taken Fatina's son. In Cambodia, Sumnang lost his daughter to a waterborne illness.

Miriam Venegas from Central America stands by the grave of her five-month-old baby boy who died from drinking contaminated water. It came from this river, the only source Miriam has available to her. His death still haunts Miriam to this day knowing clean water could have prevented it.

For years you've helped *LIFE Outreach* provide clean water in thousands of areas across the globe. Right now mothers like Fatina also need clean water in their villages before tragedy strikes again.

Open Captions

>> I am afraid that one day my remaining children will die because of the lack of safe water.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Father, I just pray everyone that can help will and do it joyfully.

God says in His Word he loves a cheerful giver. I can't imagine you not being joyful to give somebody water to become the miracle they long for. It changes everything, not just for their family but their whole village.

We have some gifts to send you and we're running out of time. We need to hear from you. You'll be blessed by the gifts but you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving the gift of life. And we're going to tell them when you give Water for LIFE, we're going to tell them about the water of life and they're going to receive the water of life. I am confident of that because they see the love. Thank you so much for doing what God led you to do.