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**Week 50: Fall Mission Feeding**

**James and Betty Robison**

**Anne Neilson**

**In the studio**

**JAMES:** Welcome to *LIFE Today*! You've got to love this title, *Entertaining Angels*. These are angels that are magnificent. Anne, you were here with Sheila Walsh a couple of years ago and you just loved her, and she just loved you. But we want all of God's family to love and appreciate each other. We want to look like the family of the perfect Father.

Well, the perfect Father has *Entertaining Angels* that are really inspirational angels. And somehow, Anne has a gift to paint what she sees. Tell me how and when did angels become an important part of your life?

**ANNE:** Well, I'm going to take you way back to when I was a little girl. I knew that I wanted to paint. I wanted to be an artist. In fact, in the third grade, I wrote a paper; it was what do you want to be when you grow up? And highlighted was, "I want to be an artist." I also wanted to be a mom and a wife. But fast-forward, I was not the greatest student; I made a D minus in 10th-grade art.

**JAMES:** Oh boy! Way to go!

**ANNE:** God has a sense of humor. And it took me quite a while to get out of college. But 20 years ago, and before I ever painted angels, I had a pottery line and so I felt like I could create and sell my works through this pottery line, which I did.

**JAMES:** What were you making with pottery? Any particular things?

**ANNE:** Yes. I would carve -- my last name was Herring, my maiden name, and so I would carve out the tail and the mouth of a fish and I would do these fish platters and plates and bowls. My business was Herring Designs. I did that up until I met my husband and had our first child and then started -- we have four children and I kind of put that artistic dream on hold while I was raising my children. I'll never forget coming home one day, and a friend of mine, they were having an art show. I went to this art show, and I just knew that I needed to create; that God had created me to be this artist. And I was sobbing to my husband. He said, "There will be a time for that. Now is the time to raise your children."

So fast-forward 22 years ago, or 20 years ago, we had built a house and I built a little studio and while they were at school, I got in there painting to praise music. And before I was ever painting angels, I was painting figures and still lifes, and landscapes. But I wanted something that reflected my faith, not that I'm an angel but out came this little angel. I sent a picture to my sister, and I said, "What do you think?"

She said, "I think you found your voice."

I was like okay.

**JAMES:** Was it a very big picture of an angel?

**ANNE:** It was tiny. It was even smaller than the book. It was tiny. This is how God works. So I started painting these very small angels 20 years ago and still painting still lifes, pears, and children, and figures and landscapes but the angels, people just started gravitating to. Everybody says, "Do you see angels?"

And I'm like, I've never seen an angel, but I do believe that when I'm in that time of worship and prayer with the Father that he gives me this vision and out of me flows the Holy Spirit onto a blank canvas. I paint with oils, which gets very messy, but sculpting these angels out of the oil paints and just allowing the Holy Spirit to make -- out of my

mess comes this beautiful message. And I do think that over these 20 years, they've resonated with people's hearts and spirits and souls. So it's been my life song.

**JAMES:** Was it a size, a particular size canvas you would work off of, or were they all varied? And did they get you small --

**ANNE:** They started small. And back to God's sense of humor, and I would go through these times of like am I supposed to be doing this? Or should I be the president of the P.T.A. Or should I be on this committee? But I felt this calling in my studio to paint and create.

Early on, I was also volunteering at Harvest Center, our local ministry for homeless people, and I was in the kitchen preparing the physical food for 300 neighbors we called them. And out in the gym, they were having a revival, a preacher, and some worship music. And there were 300 people worshipping the Lord. They didn't have anything. They were on skid row, sleeping on bridges and it was -- I was a hot mess. And I got into my brand-new Suburban that day, going home to my brand-new home, and I was just crying, how am I going to do this? My passion was to paint, my heart wanted to serve, I wanted to be a good wife and a fun mom, and how am I going to do all that and how am I going to do it well? And I felt the whisper of the Lord say paint and give back.

I got home that day and on my little answering machine -- the kind that you had to rewind, we didn't have cell phones back then really. And this lady had been selling the tiny little angels at her gift store. And she called me to say, "Some lady came in from out of town."

**JAMES:** Now, were they the angel paintings?

**ANNE:** They were the angel paintings. I had given her like three little angel paintings.

**JAMES:** But she had like more than one of each? Or just three?

**ANNE:** No, there were multiple. She had three --

**JAMES:** Okay. There were several of each of the three.

**ANNE:** They were three different little angel paintings that I had given her on consignment to see if they were going to sell. And she called me and left me a message on my answering machine saying, "This lady came in from out of town and bought all three of your angels."

I thought, okay, Lord, let's do this. So that was 20 years ago.

**JAMES:** Would they comment on why they bought them?

**ANNE:** No, I have no idea. I just think people are moved. And this is another thing. So this is over the course of -- early on my husband said, "How long are you going to paint angels?"

I'm like hmm. Until the Lord tells me to quit? And that was a long time ago and I've painted thousands and thousands of angels.

**JAMES:** I've got to know though, did you ever see an angel?

**ANNE:** I personally have never seen an angel. But in this book --

**JAMES:** Does that puzzle you because you've talked to people who have seen them. We've had people on our show, and I believe them.

**ANNE:** But I do believe that the Lord truly gives me like -- I'll wake up and I'll see this visual, and I paint that visual. So I did think that --

**JAMES:** Well, it's a vision.

**ANNE:** A vision.

**JAMES:** Yeah, it is a vision.

**ANNE:** I do believe that. And there are -- there are people that have seen them, and I don't covet that gift.

**JAMES:** They've seen something in the angelic realm that looked like something you painted?

**ANNE:** Exactly.

**JAMES:** Really? And they'd seen it before they saw your painting.

**ANNE:** Yes. But there is a story. I had a great friend, she is with Jesus now, but she was involved with a prayer group. And she always, one of the girls in the prayer group could see angels, physically see angels. And my friend Jane desperately wanted to see angels and she was driving to the prayer group saying, Lord, please give me that gift. Please give me. I want to see my angel. Every time she got there, she did not see the angel and the girl would always comment on the angels that she saw in the room.

So one day Jane was driving to the prayer group, and she said if I'm not going to be able to see my angel, I want my angel fully equipped. I want it to have the helmet of salvation and I want it to hold the biggest sword. They're in prayer and the girl that could see angels started bursting out laughing saying, "Oh, my gosh, Jane! Your angel is carrying the biggest sword I've ever seen!" And that just gave her such comfort and hope.

Even though we can't see them, and I used to pray for a guardian angel around my children, now I pray for a host of warring angels around my children and my marriage.

**JAMES:** Amen!

**ANNE:** So it's been this incredible journey and the stories that people come and share, whether it is an angel that they've seen, or they've prayed and their child has been protected; just these stories when I'm painting these angels.

**BETTY:** In the book, I haven't had an opportunity to go through it yet, but is that what it's about? People telling you their stories? And then you --

**ANNE:** Well, it's my stories and then we have 15, I think there are 15 guests, 16 guest entries in there and it's everything. From us being the hands and feet. We're not angels. I always tell people, "We don't glorify these angels. We glorify God who created these angels for a purpose on earth, to guard, to protect, to guide."

And I truly believe -- there are some great stories. And there are some stories of how we too are called to be the hands and feet. One great story is, this was a hobby, I had no idea that this would grow into such an incredible business. My business manager/partner is with me, here today. And this is early on, it was probably, I don't know seven years, eight years ago and we're closing up shop and we're tired. It is a Friday afternoon. And we get weary running a company, surrendering our hands, Lord, is this what you've called us to do? We need a sign. We need to see if this is really what you have called us to do.

Well, at 5:00, this girl drives into the parking lot and opens the door with two hot apple pies. And she was a customer. Apparently, there was a mix-up in an order and there was - - she felt like she was very curt or abrupt in her email. She lived in Atlanta, Georgia; she was a nurse. She decided to take the day off, bake two apple pies, and drive four and a half hours to Charlotte, North Carolina to say, "I am sorry. Please forgive me." And we're just like stunned, in tears and were like -- and we had just kind of prayed, what do we do? Are we doing what we're supposed to be doing? And here's this woman, we call her "the

apple pie lady" but she drove four and a half hours and she was an angel in our lives. She said we were an angel in her life as well. But we sat there, we cried, we prayed. We were like how far would you go to say I'm sorry? It was a pretty powerful moment.

So there are some encouraging stories throughout this book, and it is a neat, special book. This book is more about actions, the devotional before, when I was here with Sheila, that was more about our words and how words can build us up or tear us down; it was 40 words, 40 angels, and 40 devotionals. And so I really hope this will bless other people in today's world.

**JAMES:** In the business that you've started, is it an online thing too where they can go online and order?

**ANNE:** It is online. We are in 1200 stores across the country.

**JAMES:** Are you selling things other than angel pictures? Are you doing other things, other artwork, or what?

**ANNE:** Yes, we are. So when my first book came out, Kathie Lee Gifford held it up, the first one, and that year she was like, "We've got to meet this side of heaven. How, when, and where? This book is so anointed by the Holy Spirit, I'm going to be late, the first time ever to start my show." And we ended up meeting.

And then that following year, and I did this coffee table book; this is the ten-years-ago coffee table book so people could have the story and the image. It was still a hobby. But that year we did Kathie Lee's Christmas card. And of course, she holds it up on The Today Show and everybody starts calling us, "Do you do cards?"

We're like, "We do now!" And so that started the business and we have --

**JAMES:** So is it a card business?

**ANNE:** No, we have everything from note cards to journals to --

**JAMES:** Where do they go to see everything you have?

**ANNE:** Well, they can go to AnneNeilsonHome.com is where they can go online.

**JAMES:** Say again?

**ANNE:** AnneNeilsonHome.com. We have an e-commerce website, but we also sell it in stores. We're in several stores in Dallas. Scripture cards, we've got scripture cards for --

**JAMES:** And we, is this your partner? When you're talking about we, is it you and the other person that kind of started with you?

**ANNE:** Yes, it is. Yes, it is. She is my angel. She left me for four years and she's back and she's my living angel.

**JAMES:** This book is online, you can get it. This is -- it's really not just what you call inexpensive, you're going to pay something for the book. I tell you what we're going to do though. We're asking everybody out here to help us feed kids and we ask for \$30, \$50, or \$100 that will feed for several months, three, five, or ten children.

If you want this book and you help us with the kids, it has to be at least help us with five kids. But we want you to have it because Anne has not only entertained angels, but she's been entertained by them by what people said and saw, and what she sees, angelic actions in people. Just like her talking about her partner being -- "She's my angel." This is my angel. I've been with this angel for 60 years next year! I mean is she not a beautiful angel? You say, she'd have to be an angel to live with you. We know that she is angelic. We believe it. Sheila has one in here, a story.

**ANNE:** She does! Oh gosh, it is a powerful story about her life. I think she was in her 30s and kind of at that breaking point. And she was -- someone gave her a little lamb, and she knew that the shepherd saw her. I've got goosebumps.

**JAMES:** And that was, see what you've got to understand is angel presence and angel power and angel manifestation. The message that the angelic being brings can be manifested through us. And you know in Sheila, she's been through plenty of challenges too and here's the deal. You've seen angelic presence on her and in her and with her guests many times, as you well know.

I want to let you know this, this book is a blessing to so many. And when she talks about the angels and she shows you the pictures and so forth, she shares things out of her heart that she really believes God put in her heart. So she feels like she is sharing the love, not only of angelic beings and presence but the love of God that is spread abroad in our hearts but also through angelic impressions.

I feel impressed to pray for angelic beings and hosts to protect us in unbelievably dangerous and unstable times.

Lord, I'm asking you to just put a host of angels around all of your leaders, all of your ambassadors, for the gospel, and the true shepherds who know who the shepherd is who are not wanting to scatter the flock but shelter the flock. I want you to surround them with angelic beings to protect them, Betty and me and our family, our grandchildren, and the people who are watching. And Lord, take care of Anne and her partner in business and her family, her four children. Lord, just bless the people who watch, in Jesus' name.

I'm just going to sort of cut to the chase thanking you. But I want to say this to you, you have a chance right now to manifest angelic blessings on people by giving them life with food. I'm asking you to do it. I want you to listen to our mission director whose been a co-laborer at my side for years with pastors and leaders. He's got his daughter with him that's been to Liberty, and I helped Jerry buy that mountain and build those buildings. He

wanted champions there and his daughter is a champion. She went to the mission field with him. But they're with a mother.

Now listen to me, you can save the lives of the children that are being lost that you hear, grandmother, the mothers, and the parents talk about like you hear this one with our mission director, John Yeatts. Watch prayerfully.

### **On the mission field**

**ANNOUNCER:** Meet John Yeatts, *LIFE*'s missions director; and his daughter Ashton. Upon their arrival at this Angolan village, they received a heartwarming greeting from all the elders and their children.

But underneath the excitement of meeting our mission team is a sad reality. The worst drought in 40 years has hit Angola wiping out crops and creating a cycle of death.

**JOHN:** I'm in this village today with Luciana, this grandmother. And she's lost three of her grandchildren in the last year within weeks of each other. And she has one left. She is afraid for his life.

**ANNOUNCER:** Unfortunately, no matter which village our mission team visited, the stories John and Ashton heard are all too familiar. Story after story of mothers not having enough food to keep their children alive. The only thing left for a mother to do when her child's life is slipping away is to walk for miles to a malnutrition clinic. There she hopes to find some way of stopping her child's body from completely shutting down.

**ASHTON:** But through us, they would see you.

**ANNOUNCER:** John and Ashton's immediate thoughts are to pray for each family. In spite of these mothers doing all they can for their children, far too often they must watch their frail bodies continue to worsen.

**JOHN:** So today, I'm in Benguela. I've had the privilege to bring my daughter on this trip. My daughter Ashton, she is my baby, my youngest. And I promise you, if it was my little girl sitting there, there is no end to what I would do to make sure she was well. And this mother is no different. She would give her own life for her baby to live well.

And so I'm asking you in Jesus' name, please help us to help them. Don't delay and know that with every gift you make you're helping to save a life.

**End of video**

**In the studio**

**JAMES:** Dear God, please let everybody watching hear that, that can save a life. I tell you many times you can be somebody's miracle.

Betty, I just love those mothers and those grandmothers, and I just love their babies. And we have saved 18 million little babies that would have died, and little children. Think about that -- 18 million miracles. But you see right there, you saw the loss that's being mourned and shared, and then you see the need. And there we're looking at the perfect cure, we really are.

**BETTY:** You know, James, I think over and over again, as I look at you -- I wish I could see you but I'm looking right into this camera hoping you can see my heart and know that as much as what James shared, we've been able to do a lot! So many lives have been changed, so many precious lives have been changed! And it doesn't lessen the fact that there are still some out there though, mothers crying out in their hearts saying what about my baby? Somebody, help my baby! I love my baby. There is no one that can replace my baby. Please, someone, care.

And so many times you have cared. We're asking you to care again. And we'll continue to because there is so much to still be done. So please join with us again.

**JAMES:** Thank you, honey, for your love. Thank you for the way you loved our children and our grandchildren -- and 14 great-grandchildren. We've had two of our little grandchildren, we had, for the Christmas season, we had 16 little great-grandchildren's stockings on the mantle and two of them were stillborn. I can't tell you how much it hurt our granddaughters to not see that baby.

And look at these grandmothers and mothers with their babies there at the hospital saying, I've had my baby. My baby is maybe months or years old, but this is my baby. God, you are the miracle. I promise you. This is a perfect miracle. And not only do you save their lives, we show them Jesus. You reveal Jesus in love. You put his hands and arms around them. And he says, when you do that to the least of these, you're holding me. You're holding me! You're giving me water and food. And he says you are truly God's sheep, my sheep.

Would you right now make the biggest gift you can? \$30, \$50, \$100 feeds three, five, or ten children for the next months. \$1,000 will feed 100. And I'm just right now praying, God, give us people that will say, "I will feed 500." God, they can do it! Whatever you can do, don't you dare think \$30 is too small; that's three beautiful little children or grandchildren. Would you go get your bank card? Use it like a check, please. Call the number, go online, and make the gift God's putting on your heart right now. Let God lead you.

We have gifts to send you to say we love you and thank you. We always try to send you something that blesses you and gives you an opportunity to remember the blessings of God in your life but also through your life. Thank you. Please, go get that card. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're putting in the mail. Thank you for giving life.

**Begin video clip**

**ANNOUNCER:** Across the continent of Africa, children are suffering and facing severe malnutrition. Lack of rainfall and severe drought has led to one of the deadliest food crises in 40 years.

With food reserves gone and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us. Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach, your gift of love can be an answer to prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need.

Call now with your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months. With your gift of any amount, we'll send you the *LIFE Planner* bound in soft-touch leather. This planner will help you in your daily walk with space for you to record your appointments, goals, inspirational notes, and prayers.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the scripture pen set. Perfect companions to the *LIFE* planner, these beautiful wooden pens are inscribed with scripture references to keep your heart focused on God's plans for you.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our inspiring bronze sculpture, *Let the Children Come*. This beautiful bronze is a reminder to care for children around the world in both word and deed.

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

**End of video****In the studio**

**JAMES:** Hey, you remember I told you we want to send you Anne Neilson's book, *Entertaining Angels*. I've got to be honest with you, you just became an angel to

somebody. By the way, if you called and couldn't get through for prayer or to give, don't let anything stop you from giving life. And you know we want to pray with you about any challenge. We'll send you the beautiful book *Entertaining Angels* if you just help us feed five children or more and say, you know what? I know you're sending me some gifts, the journal, and the pens. And I know I can get that beautiful bronze, but I'd like to have the book too.

Well, thank you, Anne, for being a part of our ministry. Thank you for supporting what we do. Thank you for praying for us and thank you for showing us angels.

**ANNE:** What a blessing! What a blessing! I will continue to pray for y'all and the ministry. God's got big plans!

**JAMES:** Thank all of you for watching. We really do appreciate you. You're real friends. God bless you.