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Week 51: Fall Mission Feeding

James and Betty Robison

Randy Robison and Tammy Trent

JAMES: Well, every day is exciting to us on *Life Today*. James Robison, and Betty welcome you. And you may have already gotten a little bit of the information that Sheila Walsh, oh my goodness, what an indescribable blessing she is to the whole church world, whether it was *Women of Faith* or back with the 700 Club or singing for Billy Graham and traveling with him, she has blessed us so much. And you know, her husband Barry has just served her so beautifully at her side, really. But they got an opportunity for both and they're very excited. Betty, we bless them. And you love them, so you really be praying for them.

But, we had to have God's leadership on who is going to be with our son, Randy hosting *Life Today*. Well, it turns out that the person that seemed to have as great an anointing as anyone we had ever seen in our lives, not only here when she was here but on the mission field, was Tammy Trent. Not only is she gifted to sing and communicate and write, but boy, can she get the loving arms of Jesus around the people that are too often overlooked that you so love to put Jesus's arms around.

Well, Tammy is going to be co-host with Randy. And so Tammy Trent, we're glad to have you sitting here by our son, Randy. We know how much Sheila has blessed all of us. You worked with her with *Women of Faith* many times. Don't we thank God for her?

TAMMY: I thank God for her truly, we all do. But she's been a major blessing in my life, a bit of a mentor, and somebody I look up to spiritually. So I've learned a great deal from Sheila and her teaching of the word. So what a privilege for me to definitely step into such a role. I feel blessed. And I just pray that when my time is done, that I served you well and I served Jesus

well; and these children especially, that I have such a heart for around the world. So I'm excited to see what God is up to.

JAMES: So you're glad to have this opportunity?

TAMMY: I am thrilled, yes! And it's going to be great for Randy. I'll be able to teach him so much!

[Laughter]

RANDY: I am actually very excited. When we look at the body of Christ, it is a body. And Sheila stepped in here at a time when I needed someone strong beside me and she has so much experience and she's so gracious. I learned so much from her. And I'm excited for her in this new season.

But now, Tammy is stepping up and saying, "I'm going to give my time, myself to minister to others here in the studio, in the field. Of course, we've seen her for years with the mission outreaches and she's just blessed so many people. But to me, this is real a picture of what the body of Christ is supposed to do. And our viewers, for years have stepped up and said, you know, we're going to do a little more. We're going to reach out, reach another, whether it is in ministry or in the missions which to me is, it's all ministry. Right? This is a beautiful picture of how we're supposed to be in the body of Christ, coming together stepping up when God calls us, and reaching out in love. So I'm excited.

BETTY: I'm excited about it because God always has—God's not dull. And anything he calls us to do, and I think it is just a new season and a new time and God wants to do some fresh new things through all of us, hopefully. I think it is going to be wonderful to see the two of you work together and to see what God brings out of that union here together on television, and the people you'll be interviewing, talking to, and just ministering from your own hearts. I'm delighted that you're going to be with us.

TAMMY: Thank you!

JAMES: You know we shared just as we were praying even yesterday together as a group, you lost your husband now how many years ago?

TAMMY: 20 years, didn't find his body.

JAMES: He was a swimmer, and they were on a wonderful vacation time in the Bahamas, and he went scuba diving and never came back. And they didn't find the body for how many days?

TAMMY: They recovered his body the morning of 9/11.

JAMES: And that really—what a heavy, heavy day. You couldn't have forgotten it anyway; now the whole world has marked that day. And what I said to you even yesterday in our group as we prayed, this beautiful, God-called, God-anointed, God-gifted woman is going to be sitting here reaching out to you every day, has walked through about as weighty a time for the last 20 years.

We lost our daughter 40 years old, a beautiful life, and three beautiful teenagers that have gone on to be as full of Jesus as they were when mama poured Jesus all over them all their lives. And now she has four grandchildren she watches from heaven.

So Betty walked through that time of weight for ten years, Tammy has walked through this weighty time for 20 years, and we're talking to people, Betty, right now who have weights and loads. You and I could share with a television audience, I think Tammy shared with everybody she talked to. Some of you are saying, sometimes we don't know who to talk to. Believe it or not, that's why the four of us are here—that's why our whole staff is here. You do help us love the overlooked and the least of these, and you do it with such incredible, indescribable, unconditional love. You're amazing!

But see, we're here sponsored by that same compassion to reach out and touch you in your journey, perhaps of weight and heaviness when you felt like nobody—nobody noticed.

Betty, we have. How many times have you found me laying on the floor just praying for people I don't even know but I know they watch, and they hurt? So we're reaching out to you right now. And we will be every day. And we try to bring the greatest expressions of God's love from all the different members of the body of Christ and the gifted called-out ones with great diversity. And we just let you see the beauty of Jesus in all of his body.

And so this is a time of healing for you. This is what Tammy, I believe, is going to be able to help you see. If she can live with this loss, if you all can live with the loss of a child because of the power of God, I want that grace. You remember there is a phone number there paid for by love. Do you want someone to pray with you? Then you can make that call today.

Tammy, I know that as I've watched you on the mission field, you've transferred a tremendous expression of compassion and love that was like God's love flowing through you for all of these people in these different settings, whether it was sex trafficking, that you were trying to help girls get freed from and the broken heart or whether it was water and they were just dying of contaminated water or whether they were starving to death. Something was going on inside of you. How do you describe that when you're in the midst of that suffering?

TAMMY: There is always something going on inside of me when I hit the ground and travel to these villages. I sit there with these children—I think that the thing that I can't wrap my head around almost every trip is that this life is real for them and it's all they know. They have very little, and I have so much. How can I make an impact in this moment on their little lives? What can I do to make life better for them, easier, to lift the burden, the hardship that they face every day? And to be in those places and to realize that some of the children that I'm with in those moments might not survive another day. That reality is gut-wrenching. And to think that there's something I can do that could actually save their life? I think anyone of us would say tell me what it is. Especially, if it's not requiring a whole lot of us. Tell me what I can do.

So I'm affected every time I get on a plane and go. I don't know what I'm going to see each time I because it seems different each time I go. Yet the story can be the same, but it is very different.

The stories are different, the families are different, the trauma that they've gone through, the heartache, the disappointment, all of those things. To bring them food, to bring them water, to rescue them is such a privilege for me that I will never take it for granted. I don't know how much time I have left, so I feel like even joining you on this mission, I want to make the days count in my life.

So if I can make that count in the life of a little child, count me in. Send me, I'll go. I get to scoop them up, I get to love them, I get to hug them, and I get to say, "Jesus loves you, and I'm here to try to help you. There are a lot that are coming behind me that are with me. They just push me forward, but I'm here as a representation of so many people that love you, that want to change, help change your life and make it better." And what a privilege for me to do that! And I'm looking forward to more trips.

JAMES: Well, you not only do it well, you do it with a special enabling. The Bible talks about an anointing, the Holy Spirit, he's all over you.

Now I want you to look at these people here that send us, and they all ask, does it work? You've been all over the world to different places, different situations, and different challenges. Does their love invested in the love flowing through these mission workers who have planted that light of their life in the midst of that prevailing darkness, does it work?

TAMMY: Does it work? I can answer it this way. I've been in villages where they don't have food. I've been in villages the next day where there is a long line of children waiting to eat that little bowl of soup that we're ready to give them. And I see them happy, I see them alive, healthy, running around and having fun. And I think a look at those two days and go, it works.

I can be in a village where we're trying to tell a story to raise some funds for us to go in and drill a well. I can see how they're living in that community, get on a bus the next day and head to another village far, far away and see where we've just drilled a well months before, years before, whatever the case is, and I can see them living a different way. And so does it work? I can tell you 100 percent it does. Why? Because I've seen it myself. I've experienced it, I've been there. I

know the difference that it makes. It's not in vain.

JAMES: Randy, can you see—and this is so beautiful to hear what she just said because you do make it happen. The missionaries couldn't stay there. That's the biggest thing they've said to me, "If you'll put the oil in the lantern, we can stay here—if you'll raise the money." And boy, we've done it. You've done it! We've shown you the need and you met it.

Randy, can you see with all you've witnessed how effective she is? But can you see how her life and her testimony can minister to our viewers that have gone through such a weight and sometimes think nobody even knows or seems to care? And you know how much we care. You know that's why we're here. Mom and Dad are not looking for something to do and someplace to go. I'm constantly pouring life and truth out on people. But can you see how she's going to be a real healing factor on *Life Today* television to our viewers?

RANDY: We've seen it in small degrees and I'm excited to see it in bigger degrees. There is an interesting dynamic. Paul said that we enter the kingdom of heaven through suffering, oftentimes. When people suffer you can pull back, you can retreat to your own pain, or you can say, okay, God, what do I do with this? How do I heal? How did I move forward?

Oftentimes, and we're seeing it right here, after suffering you have a heart for those who suffer and it enables you to go in with a different spirit, with a different attitude, really with the spirit of Christ to alleviate that suffering. And Tammy's done that. You guys have worked through that, we've all had to work through that to some degree.

And so many of our viewers, they're in the same position. They see the suffering in the field. They see the children who are malnourished or who are dying of waterborne diseases or in a terrible prison-type situation and out of their own suffering a lot of times they give sacrificially to help them. And God does an amazing thing when we do that.

BETTY: Excuse me, I agree with you, Randy. A lot of times, God brings so much more out of us as his children than we ever expected. Because just like you said, with loss, there's that instant

weeping and wailing of your own heart, and you can't get past that for a while. There is a time for grieving but there is also a time for God to turn that grief into joy by ministering to others.

I know when we lost Robin, I mean I would weep and weep and weep. I would think, I have no more tears left. Then one day, as God was healing my heart, I felt a difference. I began to weep but you know what? It was weeping for others in their loss because they needed someone to encourage them and to pray for them.

So God will turn those tears into tears of concern for others. I think that's what he's done through our ministry as we've been on the field with them. Tammy, when we first went, I thought, how am I going to relate to these people? We had not lost our daughter at that time, we hadn't had a great tragedy. But at that moment, I thought, God, I'll try so hard just to see what they're feeling and to know what they're feeling.

Well, no, none of us want disappointment, we don't want sorrow in our life, but we live in an imperfect world and those things will come. And when they do, we need to allow God to show us, now I have a heart that knows what loss feels like. But I can, through that loss say, God, do something with this. Let others know that they are not alone.

JAMES: I believe that's what's going to happen through you here. Do you sense that?

TAMMY: I do. I do. I think everything you just said, Betty, resonates so much with my spirit too because I think when we take our eyes off of ourselves, and I had to sort of learn to do that. When we sit in our own pain and our own disappointment and failure, and just the ache of life, and it is easy to do because I think we all go in and out of those things often and just wonder where God is in the middle of it, and we're sitting in it. And if we can somehow, which I had to train myself to do in those moments, to maybe visit it but don't camp out there, and then get back up and then try to think about somebody else's need. Take your eyes off of yourself and think about somebody else. And whenever I'm able to do that, it changes the circumstances for me. It is like the atmosphere changes.

So I think when I get to go, especially to be with these children, where I didn't get the chance to be a mom so there is a feeling I have when I'm there when I get to just scoop up one that is drawn to me that just wants to rest in my arms. It is like whooh! You know when the group is saying, "We've got to go! We've got to go!" I'm like, "Just one more minute. Just give me five." I want to stay in that moment because I know they feel safe, they feel loved, they feel seen and captured. And that's what I wanted to feel like.

So if I get to be a chance for those children to feel that way in a moment's time or five moment's time, I want that. And it helps me navigate through my own pain, wants, desires, and needs. And I think that's how Jesus teaches me to keep giving to the least of these.

JAMES: Boy, Tammy, thank you. That is so beautiful! I think you can see that God has put us here, as surely as he put Sheila here and he's going to bless her where she is and her husband Barry. It is just going to be beautiful. And what God's going to do as you can see, is answer prayer, many of your prayers.

Lord, we talked about the hurt, the need for help, and healing. And viewers, if they need someone to pray with them help them to call that number paid for by love, and someone will pray with them, in Jesus' name.

Tammy, we're so glad that you're here. And we're going to see you sitting on the mission field where the line is there that's been established for a while, and she knows what is like to watch them when they're dying. Whether it is in the hospital, you'll even see her with a child that appears maybe the child has died, and that's so typical, too often. But also, when we feed them in schools. When we get them to where they're learning how to plant and grow themselves food.

I want you to look in. Here's the thing I want you to remember, when we go through a transition like this, sometimes it's hard for you to switch over and think, wait a minute, the people I'm looking at will only have a future if I become the miracle, if I become the source of food, of life. Watch Tammy but listen to him for them.

On the mission field

TAMMY: This is the best part of my day when I have the privilege of sitting here feeding these children. Now, this is probably the only meal they will have all day—just one meal a day. But there is so much life in this bowl of food.

When you can look around at the land here, it's incredibly dry. They couldn't grow their own food if they wanted to. And I know that it is because of this. This is what's making a difference in their life. I can't imagine not having a program like this available to this village, to this community, to this child. Without your help, these children will not survive. With your help, they are doing more than surviving, they're thriving because of the things that we give them—life!

There is life in this cup that will change your world! God bless you, angel. It's something so simple. I'm overwhelmed by it. I'm sorry, I get so overwhelmed by just the simplest thing like food! It moves me deeply, the need. It breaks my heart to see that they have very little. But it also brings me great joy to be a part of such an incredible ministry that is making a difference.

So thank you so much from my heart to you, *LIFE Outreach*. Thank you for all that you do. And thank you for letting me be a part of it!

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: Well, Tammy you're going to continue to be a part of it and we're going to keep putting not just our arms or the missionary's arms but literally the arms of Jesus around the people he gave his life for. And you really are the key. Without you, there is no way that they're sent and that they're not empty-handed and brokenhearted. This way with a broken heart, and hands able to help, a miracle of life occurs.

And they see the word, Betty, in demonstration. They don't just hear the word, they see it. They see the life of God. They see the love of God. They don't just hear about it, they see it. And it's

demonstrated, and it can only be demonstrated with your help.

I'm praying right here as we near the end of the year, we're able to make wonderful year-end gifts. Betty and I do, we'll be married 60 years in February. We've been making those year-end gifts. We take advantage of everything that gives us a break to be the overseers of all the money God entrusted to our watch care. So I'm asking for a miracle outpouring right now.

Remember, \$30, \$50, or \$100 feeds three, five, or ten children. I'm always going to ask, Betty, you know that I try to stretch people's thought processes bigger, especially when it comes to giving something great. I'm going to ask you to help, please, feed ten. But how about a \$1,000 gift to feed 100? Now go ahead and multiply that. Why don't you help 1,000 kids?

I don't know what you, Father, I don't have to try to tell people what you have given them the ability to do. You show them. But give them excitement, make them cheerful givers. Make them excited givers because they're giving the greatest gift of all, life itself; in Jesus' name.

And we're sharing the source of life. And these people are coming to Christ, as families, as villages, as communities, and sometimes entire nations are shaken. Would you right now make that special gift? Go get your bank card, if you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us you're mailing it in. We need to know, especially, as we near the end of the year. The need is great, and the opportunity to great.

Get the bank card, dial the number, go online, use it like a check and make the gift God puts on your heart. Would you please do that very prayerfully? And thank you so much for your prayers. Thank you for being an answer today to somebody's prayers.

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: I just to want mention we'll only be giving this "Let Them Come" bronze—"Let the Children Come" just a short time now. It would be really, really nice if you could give \$1,000 or more. How about even more than that?

Tammy, we're rejoicing that God has given us someone that he's gifted to move in, can't replace, but into the place that Sheila had, and filled it so, Sheila, indescribable well, supernaturally well. We love you so much. May the flow of God be greater than ever. But we're glad you're here,

Tammy, and I know you're glad to be here.

TAMMY: I am!

JAMES: And I think you're glad to see them. And Randy, y'all are going to be a great team. And just thank you for being a great son and for four incredible grandchildren and great-grandson. I'm sure we're going to have lots more coming.

BETTY: And beautiful wife!

JAMES: And beautiful wife, the whole deal. Thank you for being our friends. Friends for life—you really are. God bless you for sharing life. Thank you!