

Week 34

8/19/11

James: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! It is always exciting for Betty and for me, James Robison to come into your home and wherever you happen to be watching. And to also has as guests not only people we highly respect but who are actually co-laborers and basically you might say in so many ways family.

Janice Meyer has been to over 50 nations and the most difficult let's say extreme challenging places on this planet and I think if we needed to go to another planet to find somebody to help she would be the first one to volunteer to go. She is very courageous. Betty, she has been working for us since she was a teenager.

Betty: Since she was just a baby!

James: Oh, I'm telling you! Now she has been with us over 30 years. But she really has been just -- she's our photographer but she is so much more than that, she is a true missionary. She is a witness everywhere she goes. We just thank God that we have been a part of her life since she was a teenager. And then Kyle Rogers, who I think if you track back with me, if you've watched us a while, Jeanne Rogers, when we did the crusades was our wonderful soloist.

I remember many times people like Jerry Falwell saying, "She is the greatest singer on earth -- man or woman" he would say. And she is just fabulous. But Jeanne actually has become a missionary too and for the past 20 to 25 years she too has gone to the ends of the earth in just helping rescue the suffering.

Well, her son Kyle is our youngest daughter's age and they went to school together and they were good friends. As a matter of fact, we actually gathered in Robin's room sometimes and she'd say, "Let's pray for Kyle. He is acting pretty typical athlete teenager! And sometimes I wonder if he was distracted." We would have a real serious prayer meeting for Kyle.

You know something? He is so full of Jesus, and it was our pleasure to pray with him and his beautiful girlfriend and ultimately fiancé and wife Amy. And they have five children and what a beautiful family! I think it is as beautiful a picture of the grace of God working in people as I have ever seen. They have three sons and two daughters.

Well, Kyle has been going as a video photographer and also speaking to you from the mission fields of the world, and it has absolutely been awesome. So we want to welcome Janice Meyer and Kyle Rogers. We're just thrilled to have you. I'm glad you get to come back and you're safe. We really do pray for you a lot because you've been in some very dangerous, dangerous situations.

Now you just came from a trip to Madagascar and you saw some of the most impoverished people. We talk about the poverty level. We had the poverty level published in the local papers here in the metroplex recently, it is like \$42,000 a year; that's poverty in our area. That's hard to believe. And we know there are people that are struggling and we really -- but we talk about people who have nothing.

And by the way, when you really help the poor, really help us out of love, amazing how God does take notice and what a difference it makes. Janice, you saw some desperate conditions.

Janice: We really did and mentioning what you're saying there, people don't realize we live in Disneyland. I always say that to my friends. We live in -- it is almost not reality because 80% of the world lives on \$10 or less a day. That's 80% so we're in a very high category for wealth. But we did just see water conditions that I, after all these years have not seen before. People who were getting water where the animals were going to the bathroom, where the animals were drinking, where they were washing clothes, where they were bathing themselves.

And I saw something that just broke my heart. A woman was there, they get the intestines from an animal, a cow and then they're scraping them right there in the water. And right next to it, a child is getting water and drinking it. Right there in front of us! In all the years I've traveled I've not seen that. I know it is happening but to see it personally and to smell it, and to watch, you just want to scream. I just wanted to scream, "Don't drink it! Don't drink it!" But the fact is, they have no other choice. Even if they had a choice, they didn't have the money to go and get water that was clean, if it was even possible, which it is not.

So there they are taking that home and that's the water. And story after story they told us, "We've lost one child and this child has the same symptoms." And my heart just continues to break because that's all over the world, and we've been all over the world as you know. I just think we can do something. We can just do --

James: We can turn everything around as far as they're concerned because we give them health. Even in their challenging circumstances. Kyle, we love you! We sure

think you're -- you're in our church with your family and it is one of the most beautiful pictures of God working his grace in a family from your own parents and being around ministry to see somebody so devoted to the Lord. I thank you. You've been many places but I know you were especially moved in Madagascar with what you saw, the tremendous need there, which is typical of many of the other countries where we need to drill these 400 water wells right now. But you were especially touched there. I can tell when we listen to you communicate it.

Kyle: You go on these trips, it is such an unbelievable experience because you find yourself looking at these things and having a hard time sometimes absorbing the reality of them, really being able to accept what you're seeing. We are just, like we said, blessed beyond belief where we are. I find myself at times really feeling almost a little bit guilty for the comfortable lifestyle that I have that I live and ask myself, why was I given the opportunity and then born in the time and place that I was? It's a hard question to answer.

I find myself really conflicted with that, but what I do know is that those of us who have been blessed with this opportunity and chance at life have got to wake up to the reality to those who have not. Madagascar brought that reality home as much as any place I've ever been because we've seen some really, really bad water places and this really was the worst that I've ever seen.

James: Well, we're going to actually see a little girl that we did a story on which you did. I want you to look and listen to a little girl that represents so many that you can touch with love in a very effective way.

On the mission field:

Kyle: Three times a day Voola goes down to this water source with her mom that is unbelievable. It is disgusting water filled with disease. You can't see two inches into this water. We watched cattle walking into this water, drinking it, defecating in it. People bathing down there, washing their laundry and then right there at that very same area Voola and all of these other people are scooping water out in the buckets and we watched them drink it right there. It's unbelievable the pollution that they're taking right into their bodies -- and they know that it is bad but they have no choice. Voola recently lost her 13 year old sister to contaminated water.

Kyle: Voola knows very well what the symptoms are of water-borne diseases because she watched it happen with her sister. She was there at her death bed helping to take care of her to the very end. Unfortunately, what is happening is Voola is starting to show some of the same symptoms. I can't imagine what it is like to have no choice but to continue to go back to that water three times a day, knowing that it took your sister, knowing that it is probably going to take your life too.

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Boy, it tears me up. I can't believe it!

Betty: Wow! As I'm listening to Voola, she not only lost her sister, her big sister, but she said her best friend.

I had a best friend when I was her age and we got to grow up fairly close together but she lost her sister and her best friend. That just really touches my heart because we've seen that over and over again where the children don't have the water they need to grow. They get all the disease in their little bodies.

Kyle, I know as you were there she really grabbed your heart. Didn't she?

Kyle: She really did. She is 11 years old and I have a daughter, Madison who is 10 and just seeing the similarities in their age and just the contrast and the life that each are living it just... it just rocks your world.

You watch this little girl with such a heaviness over her, not only from the recent loss of her sister but just this reality that this is probably what her end looks like as well. To see her go three times a day down for this water and spending so much time just for mere survival, it is unbelievable how the people in these situations are just robbed of the opportunities to really ever get ahead in life because they're just trying to survive. They're taking in this water that has taken their life away just a little bit every day and it's just a wrong, slow death.

James: When you give them life, it will never be life by the standard of measure that we have, what we're calling poverty here. And in light of real poverty, there is no comparison; they don't even connect at all. But when you give them a chance, they enjoy life with their meager means and the meager -- what we call opportunities -- more than people do here with all the stuff that we have literally made an idol of. We

don't even know how to enjoy nice things, oftentimes because it has become too big. It is like the blessings we begin to worship rather than letting the blessings bless others and sharing of what we have received.

Janice, you saw people when they get a well. You've seen people when they need a well. You also saw in an area not too very far away but outside this region where we actually went way beyond the \$4800 for a well and actually gave them what amounted to as a reservoir; don't even have to have a pump. So you've seen the blessing of when we really work together knowing our viewers are saying, "Look, we want to do something, whatever we can do." But you've also seen the joy; you've seen both.

Janice: I have seen both, in this area as well as all over the world we have seen things that just break your heart, like you said. What got me about this area was woman after woman had lost a child and one lady came up to us and said her name was Landy. I remember so clearly and she was getting water. She had a little house that was made out of cardboard and a few T-shirts and it was so small.

She said, "Please take my child! Please take my child because she's going to die because my other child died and she is showing the same symptoms." And if that was one story it would break your heart and you would think, okay, but it was story after story, mother after mother, sister after sister and that does break your heart. But like you said, we have an answer. It really is not difficult.

You were saying to bless others but I'm saying it blesses you to help. We're the ones that get the blessing. What I saw in a little village -- we ended up camping out in this little village in Africa as a well was being drilled. We saw them drill and then they put a little stump on there. And the people were walking by that well to go get water down and they were digging a hole to get dirty water. We told them, we kept telling them, "You don't have to go to the river anymore, the dry river bed and get water. It is going to come out right there." They couldn't believe us because that was like telling them that there were Martians; that's how foreign it was to them. "No, I've gone to the river since I was a baby. So you can't tell me there's going to be water coming out of that thing that I don't even know what it is."

The next day we put the pump on it, and then we pumped. And these ladies -- one lady had the biggest smile you've ever seen. "Oh, my gosh!" It was like -- it was a miracle for them!

And then this one lady walked off with her bucket of water and she goes, just like this, "God is big!" Is what she said.

I said, "Yes, he is! Yes, he is! He wants to be big for everybody." But they couldn't even believe it. She said, "I still have to go down to the river right?"

And we go, "No! Never again! Not where you could get bitten by a snake. Or whatever, now you have clean water."

You know what it will do for that village? Everything! It changes it from death to life. Now they'll watch their children -- they won't even believe how healthy. They have never seen their children that healthy! And that can happen everywhere!

James: If you can imagine they have no source of entertainment. They don't watch television. They don't have entertainers. They don't go to shows. They don't go where people even for joyful church service; many times they'll have a little service where they get together. They don't have what entertains us at all.

And you have to really wonder how happy people are with all the things. What entertains them -- their children, seeing them healthy. The greatest source of joy becomes the greatest source of sorrow. You know how sad it is when you lose a loved one or someone is fighting for their health. Well, that's where they live all of the time.

But their only source of joy is watching their children live healthfully with all the challenges they face to be able to deal with it. I want to say thank you, Janice, and I want to say thank you to Kyle for going to the difficult places because Betty and I have been until Betty was nearly crippled from getting beat up and banged around in the trucks. I think we have probably taken some pretty rough blows, Betty and I, we are not little spring chickens, that's for sure. But we're not sitting in a rocker either! But we know the sacrifice you make and the missionaries make and they're the greatest examples of love we ever see, except for this.

They tell us the greatest expressions of love are viewers of *LIFE Today* and caring people all over the world who enable them to alleviate the suffering and not just talk about God's love but demonstrate it, and then those people are so receptive. The millions of people whose lives we together have saved, we have seen far more in numbers of millions trust Christ because of what we did for those who had meager means. I want us all together to watch something that I know touched you very deeply because you actually brought it back.

Let's look at it together, and let God speak to your heart because together we can drill 400 more wells. That's what we need to do.

Would you drill one? Would you help with part of a well? \$48... so simple, ten people water the rest of their life. I want you to watch. I want you to be sensitive to God and say, "God, what can I do about what I see and what I hear?" Watch closely.

James: Oh, boy! "Why do my children have to suffer like this?" They don't!

I watch her walk away with her little children, of course her baby there on their back but they look like they're just little stick figures, and then the little guy sitting there on the rock kind of waving. If I had been in that particular setting I would have picked that child up. You know sometimes a child screams and they don't know what is going on. They have very seldom done that when I've gone to them. I've really, even the parents, the missionaries have been amazed. I just reach down and pick children up and sit down in the dirt with them or wherever I am in the world and just hold them. It is like they can feel the love.

I would scoop that little child up and that would have been nice but it wouldn't have changed anything except it would have been an okay little moment of comfort. But if we will, with your help, go and drill a well, a water well, and do what is necessary, they have a whole new life. And Betty, it is just like you say, we really do become the solution to the problem.

Betty: James, as I watched that and I watched that mother desperate because she has already lost a child and expecting to lose the others if we don't do something, I don't want you after seeing something like that to go away feeling hopeless like what can I do, God? I want you to ask God how much can I do? Because that's what I feel in my heart, is God, how much can I help them? Because I know there is something that we can do, James and I can do, and I know there is something you can do too.

God is speaking to your heart right now and I pray you will go to the phone. Let us know what you can do to touch the hearts of these children and to help them have a chance in life.

James: Boy, that is my prayer, that's the heart cry of the parents; it is the heart cry of the missionaries. We give them hope. I want to just say thanks to you, Kyle and to you, Janice for just your lives, your witness. You're a continual source of inspiration to us.

Janice: James, it is an honor for us and a privilege. But I just want people to focus on the people and the children and what we can do for them. You said something about picking up that child. Well, Kyle did. And when I saw the look on Kyle's face, we all just about lost it. Tell them what you felt.

Kyle: That's when it brought it all home because it is easy when you're out there and you're given this task of bringing this stories back; documenting what's both being done and the need. You get kind of caught up in the moment of what you're doing; set the camera up here and look this way.

I went to help that little boy that we saw at the end kind of stepping across the rocks and when I went to grab his arm and kind of help lift him to step over my whole world just went [Bvmff] because all of my focus and all of these different things just stopped because when I grabbed his arm, this rail thin, tiny little arm, skin and bone, I went to lift him, I felt like his arm was going to pull off his shoulder. It tore my heart out because how many times a day do I pick up my kids, each of my five children and never in my life have I ever experienced anything like that, any concern at that level and it just tore me up. It is just such a simple solution and cure to this. We've had the joy of watching it happen. It is a privilege and an honor.

James: Thank you so much for just sharing God's heart, Kyle and Janice. We can do something. I'm asking you to. I don't think you need any more encouragement from me. I think there is something in your heart that says, "I can do something." The wells do cost \$4800. Betty and I don't have anything we do in the course of the year we enjoy any more than drilling a well.

Every time our missionary team says, "Okay, we need emphasis on the wells," or our leadership here, we agree together, this is a need, Betty and I drill a well. And by the grace of God we always will. I don't care how old we are, write a check, we'll do it and we send it on a check.

If you want to write a check, make it to *LIFE*. But whatever you can do -- maybe you say, "James, I couldn't possibly do a well. I wish I could!" I know you do. Could you give \$1200 or \$2400 and pray one or three people join you?

But then keep this in mind because this is where the majority of the support comes from, but we've got to the help of everybody, at whatever level you've been able to help, you do it out of a heart of love. \$48: Ten people water the rest of their life. Amazing! Don't you wish you could get water like that here? Well, we can by giving them a well in these communities and villages. Sometimes it costs far more than that.

One place not too far by, we actually put a reservoir up where they have gravity flow feed. That was far more expensive but that's where we combine the resources in order to touch even more people. But the average cost of these 400 wells is \$4800. \$48, \$144: Ten people, 30 people water the rest of their life.

Father, I pray you move everyone. I know everyone cares. It's so easy to care and never share. God help everyone watching to share.

Would you do it? Use your bankcard like a check. Call the number and say, "Here's my gift." You can go online, LifeToday.org, and make the best gift you can. I'm asking every one of you look, give someone water. Jesus said if you give just a cup of water you won't lose heaven's reward -- God's reward -- God's blessing! Please make that life-giving call. Help us share Water for Life.

Begin video clip:

Announcer: Every day millions of children are forced to make a dreadful choice, drink filthy, polluted water filled with deadly disease or die from thirst. No child should ever be faced with this decision. The good news is that there is a solution -- Mission: Water For Life is one of the most exciting and viable demonstrations of God's love in the world today. The suffering can end because clean water changes everything in life. With your support we will drill 415 new water wells in remote villages in 15 different nations. Your gift of \$24 will help provide clean water for five people! A gift of \$48 will help provide for 10 people! \$72 will reach 15 people. And \$144 will help provide fresh clean disease-free water for 30 people for a lifetime! In appreciation for your gift to help drill these new wells be sure to request the Kingdom Life Journal. This beautiful leather bound prayer devotional includes both Psalms and Proverbs, as well as a place to write your own reflections as God speaks to you through his word. Also please prayerfully 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 the journal as well as our beautiful commemorative bronze sculpture, "Heart of the Father." This is the last week. Please call, write, or make your secure gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio:

James: Betty and I thank you so much for your help. We do have gifts to bless you but I know the greatest gift is knowing you have given life. And on this last day now the emphasis on Mission: Water for Life will be over 400 wells. This is going to take all of us doing what we can.

But this is the last day so I'm praying every single person watching... some of you say, "Well, I gave earlier in the emphasis." But on this last day would you help us reach that goal? I even pray we can go beyond it because a lot of times missionaries come and say, "We found another area of need!" You might be able to meet that. But we're asking all of you on this last day, do the very best you can and we thank you for it.