

9/11/25

Week 37: Christmas Shoes & Smiles

James & Betty Robison

In Harmony with God's Heart

Studio discussion:

JAMES: Well, this is very unusual. Betty and I just got through doing shows on Christmas Shoes and Smiles, and we were talking about the children when we met them overseas and the different challenges that we saw. We went to feed, as you know, we feed tens of thousands of children basically every day, and you help us do that. And we drill wells, well over 8000 now that we've drilled for families for the rest of their life and provided them clean, uncontaminated water. The Lord knows that we notice. We just see them, and we love them, and we care about them.

And really, we didn't look at their little feet. But one of my friends came up to me, who was a supporter of our ministry for some time, and he is a businessman. He said, "James, I found shoes that sell quite expensively, and are very popular. They're very similar to what we can make for children if you'd like to give them to children over in Africa who don't have any shoes to wear. And have you ever noticed they don't have shoes? And did you know their feet have sores -- have sores and cuts? We can give them shoes for \$3.60 a pair. How would you like to do that?" And I talked to you about it. I talked to our staff, I talked to the missionaries, and they thought, well, we want to give them food and water, but yeah, they need shoes. And boy, did Christmas Shoes and Smiles become exciting. And we're doing it right now.

What does it mean to you for one of our supporters to notice something that even though we were in the midst of the suffering, the suffering we were dealing with was so great and so intense and so obvious and made world-famous, starvation and contaminated water and dirty water, and lack of water that we didn't even notice their feet.

BETTY: Well, James, I think about it's the family of God working together, knowing that God has a special thing, and wants something special from each one of us. He designed us that way. He gave us different gifts. When each one of us notices and recognizes, and God shows us the gift that he's put within our hearts, why not express that as the family? Come together and let's do it as the family of God and say, Yeah, I like that! Because we love it when our family does things together.

JAMES: Well, and it just -- thank you! Because we have given now hundreds and hundreds of thousands of shoes. The idea that -- I don't know who came up with it -- one of our missionaries. Betty, you might have come up with it or one of my staff, but they said, "Let's give a little shoe to hang on the Christmas tree as a Christmas ornament." And so, we've given now all different colors. I'm looking at four different colors here, and these all come in a package, four of these little ones. You have several trees. One of them is about a six-foot tree, maybe.

BETTY: Full of the shoes!

JAMES: It is! It is weighted down with them. But you've got two or three little trees and we just keep getting shoes because we will give quite well to every gift that we ask for to, whether it's water or food, whatever it is, or it's just simply spreading the gospel, keeping television outreach and online outreach, we love doing it. I just want to say thanks to that wonderful friend. You know so well how much we love you. And to all of you who have helped us, literally, put God's loving arms around those who suffer and watching it totally change everything. Saving kids' lives, stabilizing them, and even getting them in school by moving the feeding into the schools for both boys and girls will go. They need the food.

So these are the wonderful ideas that are planted in our hearts, sown by seeds of love from people just like you. And then, all of you who watch, you enable us to do it. Let me just talk to you, and I told my staff, I said, I want to sit here and talk to our viewers just like we're sitting in their living room. I said, Can we just have a private conversation with them? We are 81 years old, been married over 60 years. I've been in ministry over 60 years, ministered all over the

world. What happens to you when you get to the age that you are hearing about so many friends who've gone on, so many lifetime friends, so many people who were famous that you knew about, they're gone, just one after the other, maybe starting in their late 60s, their 70s. You get up in your 80s, you notice more and more leaving. You have to wonder as you have challenges and so forth, and you have to wonder, well, how long are we going to be here? Of course, we wonder about that. Betty and I have, because of the prayers and the love of people like you, what appears to be a supernatural relationship. But also a supernatural, let's say, a walk and not perfect health or absolute divine health, but in God-assisted, prayer-assisted health. We think we're going to be here for a long time.

Here's what I want you to know. I want you to know that what we've been doing is not leaving with a person or a personality. What we put in place is in areas of legitimate need, effectively meeting legitimate challenges, needs, and problems, and it works. We don't ask you to support anything that doesn't have God's love in place. Families called by God to be missionaries, that take their families across the ocean. They take their families halfway around the world and plant them in the midst of that suffering, because God sent them and sat them there. And they homeschool, take their kids through -- I've watched it. They're there. The missionary overseers in those countries, they've planted their lives in the midst of the suffering. When one area is dealt with effectively, they move to another where the challenges are great. But the miracle is, and this is what the missionaries told us, when we saw how effective what they did was, we said, we want to stay here and we want to help you. They said, "Please don't. Please don't. Please go back home and see if you can get us support so we can stay here."

Betty, we did that. We had to come back and sell some things. We were building a media center that I'm in right now, I'm sitting in it. It laid on the ground for three years, tilt up concrete because we didn't tilt it up. Because we took all the money for everything that we were trying to do and we sold things that had been important to the ministry. We sold anything that would give us some money to start taking care of those who were starving, those who were dying, those who are thirsty. And we asked you, would you like to help us? And Betty, we did not know. Were we amazed? Is it indescribable what we've watched those viewers do to put God's loving arms around the overlooked?

BETTY: And you've been so generous with your love and your gifts. Thank you so very, very much. It takes all of us together, God's children, together, to accomplish what God wants to do in this world. You've been so helpful in that. Please don't stop. We continually need your help. It's not about James and I, it's about God's purpose. And this is one avenue in which he wants to be effective. James, he wants to serve, he wants to help people and to use us to do that. So thank you.

JAMES: Well, you know, I've always been effective in my preaching. I'm always received. And I'm received by young people, I'm receive my teenagers, I'm received by children. Anywhere I've ever been, they receive us. But we do know that the majority of the people who watch *Life Today* and watch our program, we know that they would be older, they would certainly be over 50. And then we noticed as we went through our 70s and into our 80s, that we had a tremendous amount of our viewers who are in their mid-60s or 70s, and some in their 80s, which we thought, boy, that's old. Well, here we are, and it is old. Betty and I don't feel old. I mean, maybe sometimes I say, well, physically, don't you feel older? Well, certainly we do. We can't do some of the things we used to be able to do. We don't even want to try. But Betty and I have been blessed with the fullness of life and joy. And we've been blessed with grandchildren, and our children have wonderful spouses, and our grandchildren, wonderful spouses and marriages. We have a daughter that's in heaven that left three teenagers here full of God, who are such a blessing. I'm telling you, the joy that we have thinking about Robin being with Jesus, I know I heard her say right after she left, Dad, tell everyone don't miss this. Tell them, Dad, don't miss this! And that's a girl that was really looking forward to having grandchildren. When her three children got married, she knew what was coming. How many grandchildren does she have now?

BETTY: She has six right now.

JAMES: And another coming, seven on the way, and she's seen them all from heaven. Okay. So, see, we go through the things that others go through. We feel the same load, the same heaviness, the same weight, the same concerns. Here's what puts us in a unique position. God is

putting us in a place, and really, one of the reasons we're in the place is because of people like you. You have looked and you have seen a need that's been effectively met. And you have amazed us. The thousands of water wells, the hundreds of thousands of children, and their families whose lives you've saved, stabilized them, got them healthy to where we even started school feeding, which was a novelty in those countries in so many of the remote areas. So we get them to go to school because they get a good, healthy lunch. So this is just the love of God. And we can do it because of people like you who say, I see the need, I see it can be met. Yes, it can effectively be met, and you've got it in place. Well, here's what I want you to know. It's going to continue to be met. It's not dependent upon me and Betty. It may be dependent upon what we've put in place, and the workers that we've worked with but it's there because it works. And the people who put their lives there, it's the very way God chooses to work through yielded vessels. And he supports those yielded vessels, my people who are filled with love and who release their resources and their treasures for kingdom treasures and kingdom accomplishment, for kingdom impact. God's will being done on his earth in this kingdom, because the kingdom and the King is in us in resurrection power. So we can spread that love. And that's what we do together.

Here's what I want you to know. We're finding out that many of our viewers and our supporters are getting older like we are, some of them older, but many of them are older. And many of them have estates. They have the resources that with wisdom they have established. And with the blessing of God and others, and what they did was effective, well, their resources grew. And they've got very large estates right now. Some of them are even saying we're looking for places to leave it. And some have said we're leaving ours, and some who left left their estate. And I say thank God. And sometimes, it's quite large. Not as large as I know is there, but I know that everybody says, what's my estate going to do? Well, may I make a suggestion to you? How about put your estate and some of it to work now because if you leave it to Life Outreach, and you leave it to the outreaches of LIFE, they are in place and they don't depend upon a person or personality, but upon what was put in place by the love and direction of God and the support of people like you. They're in place. But you know, Betty, we are wanting to do the will of God. Would you join us in that? Because Betty and I, right now are making gifts larger than we might have thought of, because we're watching it work. And I get to see it all over the world. And we

bring it to you so you can see it. How about considering giving some large gifts out of your estate? We've got people that are doing that. As a matter of fact, they're the ones who suggested it to us. So why not watch it now? Not after you're gone.

Father, you just take what I'm sharing and you apply it to the hearts that hear you, and the hearts that beat in harmony with yours. And Lord, flow freely your love to the places where people have planted their lives to be an oasis of life, to be a beacon of hope as great mission workers; in Jesus' name.

Every missionary has to have our support, our prayers and our support. Would you just pray about it? We have someone on our staff who can answer your questions about estate planning and about utilizing your estate. His name is Vaughn Peak. You can simply go to that number there, call and say, I'd like to speak to him. I'd like to have him call me. If we can do anything to help you help others, other ministries. We're not talking about us. We're talking about doing the will of God, and help you do it effectively. We'll be glad to do that. But I do want you to pray about it. Pray about putting your estate and the blessings and the resources God has blessed for your oversight, putting it to work, releasing the river of love and life to every nation on earth. Release the gospel of the Kingdom, not just in word, but in deed to every nation. Jesus said that's going to happen before I come.

Betty, God is showing us some ways that we can literally release a channel through which God's love and truth flows freely to every place on this earth. We'll be telling you more about it, and we're going to need your help to do the things God puts before us. But would you just pray about what I've just said to you? Thank you for just letting me share just like if we were sitting around our home or yours. I would tell you these things that we can do together because it's been amazing. Betty, it has been amazing what our viewers have let us witness all over the world.

BETTY: It is! And we can do so much more if you continue to share with what God has given you and blessed you with. Ask God what he wants you to do with the blessings he's bestowed upon you. Thank you so much for your love and your prayers.

JAMES: Let me just mention that I'm looking down here at these little shoes. This is the little shoe if you make any gift. We're giving little Christmas shoes. And there's four of them here that come in little packages of two different shades of blue and a red one and the yellow. That's for a gift of \$100 or more. And you can give ten children shoes for \$36. For \$72, you can give 20 children shoes. Would you do it?

And could you give smiles? \$500 is a cleft palate surgery, facial surgery. We give shoes and smiles for Christmas. We're doing that now. You might want to listen to this wonderful doctor that is over in Africa. Just listen to the heart of this man and let's see if we can't give some smiles for Christmas and some shoes.

Transition roll-in: [Kenya Smiles]

OPEN CAPTIONS:

>> My name is Dr. Joseph Theuri. I'm a surgeon who does many operations that include the repair of cleft lip and palate deformities. Okay, let's pray. We pray that You're going to guide us through this procedure to enable us to get a good correction.

Cleft lip and palate deformities are very common in Kenya. For the cleft lip, the child has a split lip, usually the upper lip. For the cleft palate, usually there is a hole in the palate. Once they are born, there are quite a lot of effects. Usually, when someone sees a person with a deformity of the face, it is very conspicuous. And that kind of brings a lot of shame to the family. And a lot of children tend to be hidden as a result of that.

A cleft palate has a more challenging, functional problem because children with a cleft palate have problems; difficulties feeding when they are young. Because of that, children usually have malnutrition when they are young. Repair of both of these deformities is able to forestall all these types of problems. So a child that has a cleft lip that is repaired is able to lead a normal life. When someone has a cleft palate, the function of that child and the social interaction, and also opportunities are better when

all these are repaired at a young age.

We'd like to thank James and Betty and their friends of *LIFE Outreach International*. We believe that their support will help us to reach more children and be able to treat children with cleft lip and cleft palate. But we know that there are very many children that are not treated and they are out there in our country. This type of intervention is going to help treating these children. And these children will be able to grow normal lives and be able to access opportunities of life just like any other child in our country.

Thank you. May God bless you!

Studio appeal:

JAMES: Betty, I can't even describe how much I love those little children. I want to see every one of them that can't smile, and a lot of times they can't handle their food and drinks and so forth. I just want to make them well. And we can. When I say "we" it's us together. We show you a need that only God's love can meet, and he flows his love through channels of yielded human lives. We become a channel of blessings, just like Jesus did. And he lives in us. Betty, I want to put a smile on all their faces, and I want to put shoes on their tiny little feet because they're precious in his sight.

You know, Betty, I'm getting older. I don't know that I'm any more sensitive, but I'm as sensitive as I've ever been to the needs of others. We have shown our viewers a legitimate need that can be realistically and effectively met, and it's in place to keep doing it. Nothing will stop it but us not releasing the river of life and love, with the resources and the support essential to carry it out. We can reveal to you the challenge and the need and the opportunity, and you're the one that makes it happen. I pray our viewers see that.

BETTY: I do too, James. I was sitting here thinking, I remember the first time we were confronted with a child that had cleft palate, and they had no mirrors around them, but he looked at himself in one of our cameras and he backed off. It frightened him, and he wanted to

run and hide. I think that must be the way with many of these little children. They don't want you to look at them. They're ashamed as they grow older. And, I think about a newborn, when you first see a newborn and they come into this world, you stand waiting and wanting and you're watching every moment to see that first smile. It's worth it all. It brings joy to the heart. We want these children to smile and not be ashamed of what they might look like. Please help us do that again and again. There's so many needs out there.

And then to put shoes on their little feet, to protect their feet. How precious is that? How wonderful is that that we can help them to walk safely, to run around and play safely?

JAMES: Well, it's as simple as you going to the phone. Or you could call for prayer and say, I want to give two children smiles and make a \$1,000 gift. Would you make a gift? Think about it. For \$36, you give ten children a pair of shoes. Think about that! For \$72, you can give 20 children. For a \$1,000 gift, 275 children get a pair of shoes.

Would you reach out and touch someone with the love of God, please? Right now, use your bank card like a check. Go on line or dial that number but make the great gift of love. Thank you for giving shoes and smiles for Christmas. Make that call and that gift now. Thank you so much.

CS&S Cause 2025:

ANNOUNCER: *Poverty is a killer, and because of it, children needlessly suffer not only from lack of food and clean water, but also from a lack of things we take for granted, such as a healthy smile or a protective pair of shoes.*

Far too many children living in extreme poverty have never owned a pair of shoes. And while that may seem minor, walking with bare feet puts them at risk of painful infections, injury, and life-threatening diseases.

But this Christmas, you can bring hope and healing. Your gift today will help provide new shoes for 150,000 children in time for the holidays. And for some children, a beautiful new smile. Your gift of \$36 will help provide shoes for ten children, \$72 will help provide for 20, \$180 will help provide shoes for 50, and a gift of \$500 will help provide a cleft surgery, restoring a child's smile forever.

As a thank you for your gift of support, be sure to request the beautifully crafted yellow crystal shoe ornament, a treasure to display each Christmas. With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request this keepsake set featuring four of LIFE's colorful crystal shoe ornaments. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more to help provide over 275 pairs of shoes or two children with corrective smile surgeries, and you may request the beautiful bronze sculpture, "Lion of Judah."

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

Studio good-bye:

JAMES: You know I can't hold up the smiles, but these little shoes, and I call it cute -- cute little feet. You have no idea how happy these children get. I was amazed! And when I saw what their feet looked like, and I saw all the damage that the surface had done, and I saw the infections, and then I saw children that were dying because of the infection. Hookworms kill many of them through their feet. So thank you so much. Thank you for helping us. Hold little hungry children, give water to the thirsty, give shoes and smiles to those who never thought they would smile. To parents who thought their child would never smile. Thank you. Thank you for helping.

Please call or go online until you get through and release God's love and let us know how we can help you share what he's trusted to your oversight. We want to work as a family, his family, the Father's family, nature's God.

Don't we have a wonderful audience?

BETTY: We do.

JAMES: You are so wonderful. I wish I could see you. Thanks for watching.