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Week 13

Randy Robison & Blynda Lane

"Medical Missions Special"

MALE ANNOUNCER: The following program is sponsored by Friends of Life Outreach International.

ANNOUNCER: On this special episode of "Life Today."

RANDY ROBISON: This is the expression of God's love to the world.

BLYNDA LANE: Absolutely, you know, I feel like there's so many of us out there who are saying, God, how can I be used to make a difference in the kingdom?

JOHN YEATTS: That's the beauty of our partnership and our viewers' partnership, we as Christ's servants are coming in saying we're gonna bear that burden, we're gonna be the Samaritan of the story.

ANNOUNCER: Next, on "Life Today."

[music]

RANDY: Welcome to "Life Today," a very special edition of "Life Today," because you know here our mission, our calling, we believe, from God is to share his love in both word and deed, and on most of the "Life Today" programs we bring you various testimonies, encouragement to share God's Word with you so you can implement that into your life.

But here's something I want you to consider implementing today, that's the deed. We have faith, and we have the works that come out of that faith, and today you're going to see an opportunity, and really, it's not just an opportunity, it's a desperate need, and we're gonna ask you to be a part of it.

And Blynda Lane joins me. Blynda, thank you for being here.

BLYNDA: Happy to be here.

RANDY: You know, to me I get excited, because to me, this is the expression of God's love to the world.

BLYNDA: Absolutely, you know, I think of myself as that younger girl just wanting to be used in the kingdom, asking God, what can you do with little old me? And I feel like there's so many of us out there who are saying, God, how can I be used to make a difference in the kingdom?

And today we're gonna be giving you a really tangible way to make a difference in the kingdom of God and to actually change somebody's life. And whenever we get to partner with God in that way, it's so exciting, because it's like I want to be a doer of the word. I don't wanna just have head knowledge, I want it to move my heart.

RANDY: Yeah, you know, one of the most impactful verses for me, it comes from Proverbs, and it says whenever you're generous to the poor, you lend to God, and he will repay you. And I go, I actually went and looked at the Word, I'm a word nerd.

I looked at the Word, I'm like why? I don't lend to God, you don't lend to God, but what he's saying is that, look, I will be with you when you remember the poor, when you're generous to the poor.

Well, let me show you an opportunity right now for you to express God's generosity to others who desperately need it, and I'm telling you it's right out of scripture, God will honor that. Watch this.

JOHN: I had the privilege of visiting one of the hospitals of our medical mission partners in Africa. While there, I met some of their staff who were making their rounds.

A meaningful time for me was being with some of the families and their children who were recovering from surgery. Each and every day their medical staff see children who are born with serious physical conditions.

Many have never been able to walk normally because of having club feet or windswept legs or bowed legs. Other conditions they see range from cleft lip, cleft palate, childhood injuries that impact bone growth and physical appearances.

If not corrected in time, these children are destined to lead a life of misery and suffering, but that's where these gifted surgeons step in in a very unique way.

KALOMBO KAZADI: We are servants of the Lord. The Lord can do anything that you want to do without--even without us, he can do, but he has chosen us so that we can help to do his work.

JOSEPH THEURI: And that's why even as medical people, we really have to depend on him. We have to pray for them who are the patients. Pray for them when we are doing the operations. Just because we know that we are just the hands of someone who is actually doing the work. You're just doing that small part, and then God does the rest.

KALOMBO: And it's a great joy that he's going to use me as one of the tools to make his work perfect again.

JOHN: It is wonderful seeing children walk and run and play with smiles and laughter in ways they never could before. Life Outreach's medical partners are restoring dignity and transforming lives of precious children through these reconstructive surgeries.

I invite you to join us in supporting Life's medical missions outreach with your prayers, your love, and your financial support so that even more children can experience healing, hope, and lasting change.

[music]

RANDY: Wow, what a great opportunity and a great need, and much of that is because of our director of world missions, who has seen the work, can testify to what a great work is being done there, and he joins us right now. John Yeatts, good to see you, man.

JOHN: Thank you, thank you.

RANDY: Welcome back to the United States.

JOHN: Yes, it's good to be back. I love to go, but I always love to come home too.

RANDY: Tell us a little what you've seen over there, why this is such an important place for us to work.

JOHN: Oh, Randy, it's the, you know, Blynda, when you think about these children, if they were diagnosed with a situation like this in the United States, they would have their corrective surgeries within days, weeks, months.

These children do not have that opportunity, and our partners have the only orthopedic children's hospital in the entire country of Zimbabwe and the desperate need to expand, because there are so many cases, there are so many needs of children.

And so as we are watching the opportunity to impact kids' lives, kids that are outcast, kids whose sometimes their families will abandon them, most of the time they're just crying out for any type of help, and there's none to be had. And so we get to come alongside these families through our mission partners and create an opportunity for their lives to be completely changed, not for a day or two, but for the rest of their life.

BLYNDA: And it seems when I watched that video, it seems that there is somewhat of an urgency, because they can age out of the opportunity to have the corrective surgery, is that correct?

JOHN: There is a little bit of that, yes. Each surgery has its own complications, right? So the earlier you correct a, you know, a difficulty, the better the results will be.

They might be able to still have some type of corrective surgery the older they get, but the best way is now. You know, one of the beauties that we've seen when we help these children is the fact that when they come back made well, and they come back sharing the story of who made them well, ultimately Jesus, through the hands of these gifted doctors, it resonates through the whole community.

And I mean, one little girl that we talk about, cleft palate that that we all remember, you know, is Victorina. She went from being an outcast to being celebrated as a blessing in the whole community. These children will be the same way.

RANDY: Yeah, so have you seen some--some of these conditions I hadn't seen really before, the windswept legs, things like that, but now that we see the before pictures, and then we see the after pictures, I mean that's worth not 1,000 words, a million words. Did you see some of these children that have had these surgeries?

JOHN: Yeah, and to see them before and to see them after and to watch them as they progress is such an inspiration. It's not that these things don't happen in our culture, it's that they are corrected instantly so you will never see them, and these children don't have that opportunity.

And so when you come in and you watch a child come into the reception area, one of the first things that they receive is a chaplain, and this chaplain begins to minister to the families who are dealing with not only the shame and the concern, the fear of not being able to have it because they can't afford it, which is not a problem with us.

RANDY: They don't pay anything, that's amazing.

JOHN: That's the beauty of our partnership and our viewers' partnership is it's free. It's of no cost to the families, right? We as Christ's servants are coming in saying we're gonna bear that burden, we're gonna be the Samaritan of the story.

BLYNDA: And then it's just so touching when you see those doctors laying hands on their patients and praying over them and caring about not just their physical body but their soul, and how can that not be transformational to a child who probably that might be the first time they feel that kind of love and acceptance, they feel that God's arms around them, and then they wake up from surgery and find that they have a whole new lease on life, I mean, it's just so beautiful.

So, what I'm understanding, though, is we're out of capacity, and we're needing to expand. What is the need?

JOHN: So, being the only orthopedic hospital for children in the entire country of Zimbabwe, we desperately need to expand the capacity of the OR rooms, expand the capacity of the post-operative rooms, and basically all of the care that goes into the

surgeries. We're just limited in space, and it's old space, and so in order to be able to provide the best care available, we have to renovate.

RANDY: What's your prayer when you look at this kind of opportunity and you see what's-- the good that's being done but also the increase that needs to happen, what's your personal prayer?

JOHN: That I'll be able to communicate it well. That realizing there's a responsibility on my shoulders to help people hear, see, not only the opportunity, but I believe the responsibility before the Lord to do this work, and I feel so many times that I lack in the ability to communicate that to move the hearts of people here.

Sorry.

RANDY: No, I get it, because I'm with you, and I want you to know that we all feel a little bit of insufficiency, and that's where God steps in, when we're just obedient.

So, if we haven't communicated the need and the opportunity, let me show you some pictures so you can see it for yourself and just know, no matter what you're feeling, when we step out in obedience, God blesses and he multiplies. Let's see what he can do.

[music]

JOSH KORN: When our patients show up here at the hospital, we don't really know them, we don't speak the same language often. You can imagine it would be a scary experience, all these new things and meeting all these new people and not knowing what's gonna happen or what they're gonna do to you.

[music]

JOSH: So when Nafiou arrived with his grandmother, he seemed overwhelmed, but he was here, he still came, and that is a reflection of his courage and the courage of all of our patients and their families.

For Nafiou and for children that have disabilities, but especially a cleft lip, something that's on the face that's very visible, life is very hard. They're seen as unclean, as impure, a lot of times rejected by their community or even their their own family, and it's just a very lonely existence.

JEAN-FRANCOIS NEGRINI: For our team it is very precious to have examples of Christians, African, Swiss, American who are displaying these kind of values. Some of our patients, they have never been in touch with the Christians.

MALE: So, let's pray.

[speaking foreign language]

JEAN-FRANCOIS: So it is still a little swollen. We have done a correction of the, the nose and the nostrils, so the shape is going to be very nice once the swelling has subsided.

TIM MEAD: We're called to help those that we can. No, we won't cure everybody, but we are called to take care of the ones we encounter, and those we can help, we should help.

I think the biggest thing is if you see these kids, you'll realize that if this was my child, I'd want something done.

[music]

RANDY: What a beautiful smile, what a beautiful story of success, and you know, Blynda, what a great opportunity to do even more.

BLYNDA: It's amazing to think that one small act of compassion can actually change someone's life forever.

RANDY: And not just the child, but the family and the village, because this is a testimony of love, it's a testimony of what God can do, and sometimes it's the first time they've ever heard it.

But it doesn't happen without your support, and that's why we're bringing this to you. Six hundred thousand dollars will renovate and expand, it'll give us more operating rooms, more recovery areas. It'll enable surgeries at no cost to those families.

And just as we can't do it alone here at Life Outreach International, we need those doctors. What a beautiful testimony those doctors provide, but we need you. And Blynda, it's just my hope that people will see the opportunity, the need, and just take action.

BLYNDA: You know, this reminds me of in Psalm 147:3, and it says that he will heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. And we think about how does that happen today?

Well, I believe that it's through people like you and me and all of you watching. It's through your gift of generosity that God can then move in the hearts and bodies of these kids to bind up their wounds, to heal them.

And I just--I think it's so important, because not only do they get to have the miracle in their life, but I believe, I really do believe that when you give, you find out that you experience a miracle, too, because you begin seeing God's work in your life and that you are making a difference in someone else's life. It's what the Christian walk is all about. Why are we here? What are we doing if it's not to make a difference in someone's life?

RANDY: Absolutely, and this is where when James says that faith without works is dead, this is what he's talking about. It's not your works that that earn you salvation, that's a work of God and Christ on the cross alone.

It's out of that, that our faith expresses itself, and it expresses itself in just this way, seeing a need and meeting it and doing it in the name of Jesus. Did you hear those doctors? Have you seen the way that they go about their work? It's a partnership. God has a pattern.

Go look at it, if you don't believe me, go look it up in scripture. God has a pattern of partnering with his creation, with humans to achieve his will on this earth, to spread his love to others. That's why we're asking you to partner with us. It's a beautiful partnership, you with us, us with our various mission partners in the field. The doctors are there, the facility is there, so people know that this is where we can get help and where we can get help and where it doesn't cost us anything, but we're very limited on capacity. The need is bigger than our ability. We can expand that if you will go online or go to the phone today. Partner with us. Let's do this, we can do this. I believe it's our calling from God.

ANNOUNCER: Many children in Africa are born with severe deformities or suffer life-altering injuries, conditions like club feet, windswept legs, and untreated fractures force them to live in pain because help is out of reach.

But you can offer healing today. Our mission partner in Zimbabwe runs a children's hospital now at capacity and in urgent need of renovation and expansion.

With a \$600,000 goal and only a short period of time to raise the necessary funds, your best gift today helps children receive the surgical care they need at no cost to the families. Together we can heal precious lives and reveal the love of Jesus.

With a gift of any amount, we'll send you the "Global Impact of Life" Journal, featuring inspiring photos from Life's outreaches. This beautiful journal is a reminder that your prayers and partnership are making a global difference.

With your gift of \$126 or more, you may request "A Life of Compassion" coffee table book, capturing Life Outreach's heart for the world. Each page pairs timeless Bible verses with vivid mission field photography, making God's Word visible in action.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,026 to help with the expansion of operating rooms so children are no longer turned away and request Life's beautiful bronze sculpture, The Good Shepherd. Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

JOHN: Hi, I'm John Yeatts, director of World Missions for Life Outreach International. Although rare, Blount's Disease is a reality for thousands of children worldwide that causes the knee and the leg to bow outward. It's very painful, and I want you to see a young man named Plasdus, how his life was dramatically changed through corrective surgery.

KAFWA SICHILIMA: I met Plasdus, he was a shy guy, reserved at the time, you know? And I asked him a simple question, how has it been for you? I just saw tears started rolling down his eyes.

And he opened up and started saying, "My friends actually laugh at me. And it's been so difficult for me to just handle this."

ILHO MOHO: It was a bit of a complex operation, but it went well. In 6 months, he has progressed very, very well. So the smile and the encouragement Plasdus gave us, it was so promising.

JOHN: Wow, how amazing it is to see Plasdus running like nothing had ever happened to him. This is a result of the dedication of our God-gifted surgeons who performed the life-changing surgery for Plasdus.

Without this medical mission outreach, he would suffer the rest of his life. I encourage you to partner with us and help provide surgeries not only for Blount's Disease but a whole range of pediatric disabilities. Because you give, we can keep smiles on the faces of not only Plasdus, but children just like him. God bless you.

[speaking foreign language]

[music]

RANDY: Well, I almost don't have the words to express how beautiful that is but also how critical it is that we do more. There's so many other children that we can turn their stories just like that young boy's. We can't do it without you.

And I don't know if you've noticed a little bit of a theme if you've been watching this whole program. There's a scripture in Revelation where it talks about God has made us out of every tribe, out of every nation his kingdom. What is his kingdom? It's his expression of his will and his love on this earth, and you're seeing it, but I'm asking you to not just watch it, I'm asking you to be a part of it.

You are called into his kingdom to express his kingdom to others, and that's exactly what you're witnessing, but we can do more. We need to continue. Don't stop, and Blynda, I just love this work. I feel honored to be able to be a part of it, to be able to sit here and represent it, but I just, like John said earlier, I want people to get it.

BLYNDA: There's like a weight that you feel of are they getting it? Are they understanding the need? And you know, I watch that video, and it reminds me when I was a young girl, like in the fifth grade.

I had a foot issue, and so in school I had had to leave school, go get a procedure done on my feet, they had to bandage them up, I'd have to go back to school, and I remember so much about that time feeling so insecure. I mean, you know, you're a fifth grader, and it was just like really painful to, you know, have to go back and face, you know, kids mocking you and making fun of you when you have these bandages, and that is nothing compared to what these kids are experiencing, but what I was relating to, I don't forget that feeling.

I'm an adult, and I don't forget that feeling of embarrassment and insecurity. And then here's these kids who they have such a disability that not only does it change their quality of life, it's actually something that's impacting their emotions and their spirit, because people are rejecting them, they're feeling isolated, they're feeling different, and we have a chance to change that. I mean, I just think about the opportunity that we have that we can-- what we do, what we generously give out of our heart. We have an opportunity to change a child's life and not just change their physical but be able to change their emotional, their spiritual well-being, because it all really does thread together, it really does.

RANDY: It does, it does, in so many ways, physically and spiritually. You know, some of the superstitions there, they are viewed as cursed, and we're called to right the wrongs, so we right the physical wrongs, we right the spiritual wrongs, and so I really do want you to be a part.

We do have some gifts for some various giving levels. These are simply reminders. The picture book will remind you in visual form of the work that you have made possible.

But look, whatever you can do, it's what we're called to do. You know, when Jesus got just a few loaves and fishes, what did he do? He fed thousands, he multiplied it. It's really about the obedience, it's about the act of stepping out, it's about just doing what God puts on your heart to do.

Some of you can really contribute in high financial ways, but it's not as much about the dollar amount as it is about the heart amount. I'm asking you to do what God puts on your heart, whatever that is, that's what he asks. It won't feel like enough, but he will bless it, that's his promise, that's his pattern, he will multiply it.

So do your part, go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can, make the gift that God puts on your heart and know that he will bless it, and in the process we are all blessed.

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RANDY: So many amazing images. You know, when you see the transformation that that child goes through, I hope you see the opportunity, and I hope you see the urgency.

And Blynda, wow, I just want people to jump in and be a part of this blessing.

BLYNDA: I know, I think it's so exciting to think about if you really get this, if you really understand that you get to rewrite the story, you get to tell a child that we see you, we love you, you matter to us.

When you get to have that opportunity, you are partnering with Jesus to be the hands and feet that we talk about. That's what we wanna do.

RANDY: I love it, and you know, I want you to rewrite a story of a child that desperately needs it. This is the opportunity, let's step up. God will bless it. He'll bless you as you bless others, so please go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can. Let's share God's love in word and in deed.

[music]

ANNOUNCER: "Life Today" is made possible by the supporters of Life Outreach International. Your gift will be used exclusively for the exempt purposes of Life.

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