

**4/13/2026**

*Week 16*

*Randy Robison & Blynda Lane*

*Cynthia Yanof*

*"What Really Matters"*

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

**CYNTHIA YANOF:** I just hear the most excruciatingly loud, like smashing noise, and it's like jolting, and I see shrapnel flying, and I see sparks, and that's when I realized that the clearance level on P2 is a lot higher for my SUV, and P7 it's a lot lower, and I was literally lodged between the ramp and the roof of a parking garage.

**RANDY ROBISON:** Oh my gosh.

**CYNTHIA:** Yeah, so many things that feel basement level that seem like they don't. Everything important is happening on the 45th floor, and the Lord's like, no, like the basement-level stuff, it impacts structural integrity of everything.

**ANNOUNCER:** Cynthia Yanof, next.

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**RANDY:** Welcome to "Life Today," I'm glad you're here. We're gonna have a good time. I don't want you to miss it. I don't know, you might say how did I miss that after the show?

If you miss it, but Cynthia Yanof is our guest. It's just gonna make sense in a minute. I'm excited to have her, this is fun.

**BLYNDA LANE:** And yes, and "How'd I Miss That?" is the book title of Cynthia. And what I love about this, I just have to point out that there is spinach in this woman's teeth, and I just have to tell you I am a spinach friend.

I am, if you had spinach in your teeth, I would say, girl.

**CYNTHIA:** You would tell me.

**RANDY:** I would tell you, I would tell you. Just I wanted to get that off the bat that we would be really close friends.

**CYNTHIA:** Well, I'm glad you did, because yesterday at the airport, TSA told me that my pants weren't all the way zipped. So, there we are, everyone. And I was like, my book is aptly named, "How'd I Miss That?"

**BLYNDA:** How'd I miss that? Okay, but I love the book, because, I mean, you're so funny, and you write so-- it's so well written.

But what I really love about it is it takes kind of these big concepts of all of these things maybe that we feel like we're supposed to do in life, and you kind of bring it down and say, really, it's some of the small things that can make the biggest difference. Tell us the heart behind the book.

**CYNTHIA:** Right, well, I read a quote, and it's unknown in source, so let's just call it mine now, but there's little different, you know, people are basically the same, but there's a little difference that makes a big difference. And I think that's it.

There's little differences in people, and I think about people who have most impacted me. It's not, you know, the TikTok stars, it's not the people in Hollywood, but it's people that just lived life with just a little twist and a little differently.

The heart behind this book is that we are called to live differently, and we think it's the big things that really it's the day-in, day-out, small things that impact people.

**RANDY:** What are the things that we miss?

**CYNTHIA:** Well, I mean, I've missed a lot, starting with spinach and zippers, but yes, I would say, especially as believers, love. Like, that is our brand as Christians, right?

If Nike is just do it and Subway is eat fresh, like we--the greatest commandment, love the Lord of God with all your heart, soul, mind, strength, love your neighbor as yourself, and so love is our brand.

And I tell the story in the book, but I have a podcast, and I had an opportunity to interview somebody I was really excited to interview, someone that has a brand that's based on love and loving people well, and I was so excited for this interview, and I mean, I studied harder for that than I did the Bar exam.

I used to be a lawyer, and I was like ready for this thing, and so I get ready to go on, it's on Zoom this particular interview, and this person's not there, and I wait and wait and finally, long story short, they put me in touch, and I say to this person I don't know what happened, I'm just so sorry.

Like, maybe we can reschedule, and this person's frustrated, they've been waiting and said I'm not rescheduling now or ever.

And here's the thing that's hard about that. Like, we all have a bad day, I get that, but if you build a platform on love and you act unloving, it doesn't go unnoticed, and I think that's how it is for us as believers.

Every single day we have opportunities to show people what we're about and to show our brand, and it comes with delays, untimely delays, and annoying people, and people that drive bad and don't give us bonuses at work and all those things, and we just have these moments where we have to show up and show up in our brand.

And I would say it's one of those things I've missed. I've been focused a lot of my life on what I do versus how I do it, and how you do it matters, love matters.

**RANDY:** Yeah, you know, the interesting thing about that, and when we hear something like that, you're 100% right, but we just think, oh, well, gosh, I gotta love more, I'm gonna try harder.

But love, scripture says, is a fruit of the spirit, meaning it's a result, and so if we focus on the fruit, we're kind of missing it. We focus on the root, which is abiding in Christ, then you can't stop the fruit, and that's the beautiful thing about love, because I feel I can try, try, try, and you know?

I have a question, though.

**CYNTHIA:** Okay, I'm ready.

**RANDY:** You said you used to be a lawyer.

**CYNTHIA:** I did, and I would like to continue this interview unless that's the showstopper. Is that what I--do I need to exit the premises?

**RANDY:** I do have some good lawyer jokes, but we'll leave those on the table.

**CYNTHIA:** Afterwards.

**RANDY:** But how did you get to where you're at now?

**CYNTHIA:** Right, well, that's a great question, one my husband offers up quite frequently. But I would just say this, I went to law school, and I didn't know what lawyers did. I thought it was like that show, "Ally McBeal," and I thought I was just gonna wear cool clothes and meet a bunch of people, and it turns out that lawyers care about something I don't care about, the law.

And so, I realized pretty quickly that was not my place, but in a matter of years, seven or eight years, and the Lord gave me what I knew, these words, but I had never experienced that holy discontent, and I'd heard and talked about all my life. I'm like what is this?

And then I had that moment I was like, oh, wow, Lord, I think there's something else. And so it was one of those moments where it was like open palms of like whatever you want from me, Lord, I want that, too, but also I'm a little scared, and that led us into foster care, which led us into--I stopped working, and we got involved with that.

And then the Lord opened the door with the ministry, and I started podcasting. And here's the thing, nothing is wasted with the Lord, because do you know what a podcast is? It's a deposition, and I know how to take a deposition. You ask questions, you listen, you ask a few more questions.

Well, I've taken 1,000 depositions when I was a lawyer, and I was like, okay, the Lord wastes nothing. And so I do podcasts, they're just not--they don't quite pay like a deposition used to, but we're good, everyone, it's fine.

**RANDY:** And you don't lock anyone up at the end of your podcast.

**CYNTHIA:** I don't, if it goes well.

**RANDY:** Yeah, nobody goes to jail, that's good.

**BLYNDA:** Okay, so you just hit on something about foster care, and I know that's a big part of your story and your life. How did you get into that whole realm of the heart for fostering and then what turned into adoption, correct?

**CYNTHIA:** Yes, yes, well, I always say we're just like the most unlikely candidates, and I wanna be the person that's like we just knew and were like, yes, Lord, we're all in. I was like, oh my gosh, what?

Like that's for like missionaries or people that are in the handbell choir. Like, this is for, like, really serious, like, not us. We let our kids play sports on Sunday, so I don't think we're the people, okay?

And the Lord is very persistent, and he's like, no, we're gonna do this thing. And so we did all the paperwork, and we got licensed, and I mean, there's so much I could say, but I would say this, one, I don't find the Lord to be subtle when he's calling you to do something of significance, and that at that time in our life was what he was calling us to, and he was not subtle.

But I also know we went into it scared to death. I was scared spiritually, financially, emotionally. I mean, if there was a way to be scared of something, I was scared of it. I was scared for my bio kids, and I would say I went in scared of it, and I came out scared of who our family would be if we hadn't done it.

Because you're changed people when you do the things of God, you're changed when you show up. And even with the most reluctant yes, which is what we gave, it wasn't like we're all in Lord. It was like, oh, man, okay, and we're different.

Like, we prayed over the crib of a newborn baby we barely knew night after night and begged God, like cried over a crib as a family, and begged God to do something merciful, because we knew this wasn't going to turn out well.

We went to parts of town, honestly that we've been avoiding, and we went to CPS offices and my kids, my bio kids were entered into stories they had no idea existed with kids with everything they owned in a trash bag, and I just think, my goodness, thank you, Lord, for giving us an off-ramp to our first-world life and showing us like, yes, we ended up adopting a little boy who's ten now, which means for--those of you of my age, you understand I'm doing math facts and menopause, and that's nobody's best, I'll tell you that right now.

But I will say all these years later, I look back, I'm like we know a different version of the Lord than we would have otherwise, and I wanna do what the Lord created me to do. I want my family--if this is the time the Lord put us here from beginning of time to second coming, like he's not a God of chance.

We are here right now, all of us, for these chances for the opportunities for what he created us to do before we took one breath, like don't miss that. And to the heart of the book, "How'd I Miss That?" I can look back on a lot of places where I'm like, not from regret, but I mean time is limited, like, right? It's a vapor, and I don't wanna miss it anymore.

So, that's one of those occasions I'd rather talk about when I feel like we didn't miss it than the many times that I'm like, oh.

**BLYNDA:** Well, and you even speak about that we have two options, building our life for the applause of others, or building our life for eternity, for things that are gonna matter. And so when you say your best yes to God, even if it's in something so out of what you thought it would be like fostering to adopt, we know that there's blessing in it every time you say yes to God.

**CYNTHIA:** Right, absolutely. And the challenge is, is that we live in a culture, we live in a world that tells us everything's urgent. I mean, I feel that, I don't know if you do. I'm sure you do, the urgency, especially as a mom, the urgency of getting my kids in the right college or for having the retirement fund or a second house or whatever is urgent, and I'm just finding the older I get that what the world calls urgent rarely intersects with what the Lord calls eternal.

And so there's a point where you have to say, am I gonna chase after what's urgent? It will take all of your time, or am I gonna chase after what's eternal? And there's a moment in time, I think, where you have to look at that day by day and say, okay, like, what's gonna matter? What really is significant long-term?

And so I think that's just that daily balance, and sometimes we get it, and sometimes we miss it.

**RANDY:** All right, I have to ask you, there's a lot of great stories in the book, and I got kind of my list. Is there anyone that you like to tell, one that jumps out that kind of makes a strong point that you're trying to communicate?

**CYNTHIA:** Yeah, I would say one of my favorites is when I was a lawyer, I was disgruntled and not very good at my job, because I didn't know what lawyers did, and I hated the law, remember that part?

And so I was driving to work one day, and I just on the phone and drinking a Diet Coke, because I always have a Diet Coke, and I'm driving, and I always parked on P2, but my kids had made me late so I go to P3, P4, P5, and finally around P7, I just hear the most excruciatingly loud, like smashing noise, and it's like jolting, and I see shrapnel flying, and I see sparks, and all of a sudden then it's silent, my Diet Coke flies across, and I'm like, oh my gosh.

And so I get the nerve after I check, everything's still intact, I get out, and I'm like what happened? And that's when I realized that the clearance level on P2 is a lot higher for my SUV, and P7 it's a lot lower, and I was literally lodged between the ramp and the roof of a parking garage.

**RANDY:** Oh my gosh.

**CYNTHIA:** Yeah, and so there I sat, and by the way, there's nothing in your owner's manual that tells you what to do when you lodge your car like a missile into a parking garage, and the attendants finally came, and they were nice.

They asked if I was okay, and then they laughed, and so there we sat, and I waited and waited and finally went up to them as they're talking and with only the tone a woman can that's wearing half a can of Diet Coke and, you know, has totally destroyed her car, I'm like what's taking so long?

I mean, I have a job on the 45th floor, right? In this high-rise in downtown Dallas. What's taking so long? And they let me know this is even more horrifying. They had to call in a structural engineer, because I had become a load-bearing wall, and I look back on that time, and I laugh a lot kind of now after many years, but also so many things that feel basement level that seem like they don't-- everything important is happening on the 45th floor, and the Lord's like, no, like the basement-level stuff, it impacts structural integrity of everything.

And I can look back on my life, and I can see a lot of places where there was basement-level things the Lord's like we've got to work on some humility, we've got to work on some forgiveness, we've got to work on how are we loving? We gotta live on mission. Like, I feel like the Lord worked so mightily in basement, and all I wanted was the 45th floor.

And just so you know, they did get my car out. I don't know if anybody cares how that happened, but here's the quick version of that. They brought in a guy named Manny, and they were like as soon as Manny gets here, we've cleared a structural engineer. Manny was a really large fellow, like really large, and they let out the air of the tires, and Manny's whole job was to jump on the side of my SUV on the running board, and his weight with the air coming out lowered enough to give me freedom from the garage.

**BLYNDA:** Oh my goodness.

**CYNTHIA:** And sometimes when I speak I get to tell people like, listen, I don't wanna liken myself to the fat guy on your running board, but I kind of wanna jump up and down and say, like, listen, this is what matters.

If you want freedom, then you gotta believe the small things matter. You've gotta believe the everyday decisions of faithfulness, they matter. And so, yeah, that's the story.

**BLYNDA:** Where was it in your life or in your story that you began seeing God has made me gifted in a way to have an ability to see every story, every--because he said what's your favorite story, and you told one that is like really hard, inconvenient, it ruined your car, and I'm like where does it come from to be able to make something great about every story and to be able to really teach it and make it almost a life lesson for someone?

**CYNTHIA:** Yeah, I mean, I think it's time and perspective, right? I think that's part of it is, is you--in the moment that's not funny to me, right? But it takes a little time, it takes some perspective.

I also grew up in a home where humor was currency, and so if you can't laugh at yourself, then it was gonna be a long road, and, you know, our love language in my current home with my kids is sarcasm. That's just how we--that's what we speak in our home, and I just--I feel like this.

I grew up in a really strong faith-filled home, and I'm so grateful for that, but I also grew up thinking that faith needs to look a certain way, and it was serious, and it is serious, I understand that, but if God's not in the in-between and the funny and the off-script stuff, then we're in trouble, because 90% is off-script, in-between, didn't go as planned, and so for me, I feel like the Lord has given me these constant reminders of like, "I use all things for your good and my glory," all things. And so I like to just kind of step back and look at those things and say, okay, Lord, like what do we take from this? How can we get spiritual truth from the ordinary?

**BLYNDA:** I love it.

**RANDY:** I've heard a lot of great sermons on the true deep meaning of, you know, man makes plans and God laughs and what that actually means. I think he literally laughs.

**CYNTHIA:** Literally, I hope so, right.

**RANDY:** But so the foundational things that you talk about, we like to cut corners, and you also tell a story about where cutting corners can get you, and if we don't deal with those very foundational things, it can come back to bite us as it did one home builder.

**CYNTHIA:** Right, right, I mean, the gist of the story is like a sermon illustration, but a guy who built homes for a living, and at last he retired, and the boss said one more house. He's like, oh my gosh, I'm done, I'm retired, and he said one more, so the guy did it, and he kind of cut corners and didn't use the same craftsmanship, all those things, and at the end the boss said, okay, here's the keys, you were building it for yourself, and you know he's dying, like, oh my gosh, I cut corners on the one house they're giving to me.

But that house looked the same as all the others from the outside, and that resonates with me, because I feel like in my life I've built two homes. I feel like the first 30-plus years of my life was a home that looks very similar to the one I live in now, metaphorically speaking, but it was a home where some corners were cut, and I cared--there's some pride issues, and there was some self-sufficiency and some achievement, all of those things, and I feel like the Lord was very gracious to do a little demolition and break down some things and say, like, this isn't a home worth living in.

And then you get a little older, you get a little perspective, and then you rebuild, right? And yeah, they look the same, but at the end of the day, like if you have foundation problems, you can throw a rug on it, but it's still a foundation problem, right? And the Lord really works through some of those foundational issues, and it's painful, and it's difficult, and you have to play the long game, but only then are you building a house that's really worth living in.

**BLYNDA:** So, in the book, you talk about generosity, like, I think about your life, and you've really live a generous life in the sense of you chose to do something for the Lord, you gave up the the law practice, you decided to to go into this, now you've adopted a child, and where did that heart of generosity come from?

**CYNTHIA:** You know, I think my parents are very generous people. I think I've been subject to a lot of generosity and people around me, not just financial. I think the most generous people are generous in ways that are not necessarily financial even, but generous in their words, generous in giving me second chances, generous in giving me opportunities I did not deserve.

But I think if you look at our whole story as believers, you think about a God from Genesis to Revelation that over and over and over pursued his people at all costs, and he made a way back to him all the way through Jesus, right? Who dies on the cross for us. I mean, he leaves the 99 for the 1, and we're the 1. Like what kind of generosity is that? How do you not live out of that overflow?

And I think it's easy to miss that. I miss it a lot, but if you really think about the story, that's our story, then how do you not live generously? And so I think for me, it was always a

financial thing, it was a sermon, you know, twice a year when they're under budget, and so I think that challenge in my life has been how do I live generously even outside of finances?

What's a generous word I can give? What's a way that I can generously include people in my home, make memories with people? I've really hopefully worked on our kids on who are the kids that don't have somebody? Who can we love well that doesn't have--I don't even mean financially, but doesn't have the social wealth or whatever those things are.

And so just showing there's lots of different forms of generosity, and we live out of an overflow of generosity, and that changes everything.

**BLYNDA:** Seeing those who aren't always seen.

**CYNTHIA:** Right, right.

**RANDY:** Yeah, I mean, the scripture is abundant when it comes to the poor, poverty, our generosity, and you're 100% right. I gotta just be honest and let people know that when I have given of myself in every way, including finances, I haven't always gotten richer from it. I've been poor financially but rich in spirit, and I think that's what true generosity looks like, true prosperity looks like. It's a richness of of spirit, and so you've lived that.

**CYNTHIA:** We have an opportunity to be generous day in and day out and show up, and we don't know people's story, but they all have one. I have one, y'all have one, so yeah.

**RANDY:** So good, thank you, Cynthia. And her book, by the way, "How'd I Miss That?" we'd love to send it to you, and we'd also like to show you some people that I hope you'll see them the way that God sees them, because this is a chance to be generous, so watch this, prayerfully consider how you can be involved, and if you request Cynthia's book today, we'd love to send it to you when you support this beautiful outreach.

**JOHN YEATTS:** 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:** Man, I love seeing that, and you know, I love the attitude of those surgeons as they say we we're God's hands, we're partnering with God, because Blynda, that's what we do. That's what God does, throughout the scripture he partners with people, and we partner together with people in the field and with the viewers to make this happen.

**BLYNDA:** Yes, the surgeon even called himself a tool in God's hand, and it's like if we think about how you build something, it requires a lot of tools. And so I can't be a surgeon, you wouldn't want me operating on anybody, but I could be a giver. You know, we all are different tools, and we all can ask God how can we use our gift to give and to help in this situation.

**RANDY:** And it's a blessing. God blesses those who cheerfully give. Proverbs says when you're generous to the poor, you lend to God. You don't lend to God, but God is entering into a contract, because he says, "And I will repay you."

And so there there's--it's the heart of God to be generous, and that's why I think I love seeing those doctors, because I just feel God's heart. And also, it kind of goes by a little bit quickly in that piece you just saw, but when you look at those pictures, the before and then the after, I actually had to go back and look twice.

I want to know if that's the same child? That is the difference you are making when you support this children's hospital there in Zimbabwe in the heart of Southern Africa. So many children are impacted and surrounding nations come there. There's a long line. That's why it's so critical that we have reached that \$600,000 goal and do it this week, because this is the last week you're gonna hear us talking about this.

I want to be able to let those doctors know, yes, our viewers came through. I want those children who are in desperate need of a surgery to know, yeah, you're in line, it's gonna

happen. The hospital's at capacity, we're gonna expand the operating rooms, we're gonna renovate the recovery areas, and we're going to do more surgeries at no cost to the families that desperately need this.

And Blynda, this is just such a huge act of God's love in action. I just get excited about it, but we gotta hear from people today.

**BLYNDA:** We do, the opportunity is so great. I was even asking off screen, why don't I feel like I see a lot of this in children in America? And it's because--and you said it's because we have the ability to get those surgeries immediately.

**RANDY:** Yeah, they don't grow into those conditions. Yes, and so we have an opportunity to change a life for somebody who hasn't had the opportunity to get it done at birth.

**RANDY:** Right, right, but again, we need you. That's why I'm asking you right now, go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can. Do what God puts on your heart.

And if all you think you have is a prayer, that's big, that's huge, we value your prayers. Most of all, we value the partnership, because as I said, when you are generous to the poor, you lend, you partner with God. Will you partner with us as we partner with God? I hope you will, do it today, do it now.

**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. This is the last week, please call, write, or make your gift online.

**RANDY:** This is the last week we'll be on the air with this. I really want to be able to tell them, yes, we're going to do more, and we can only do it with you, so please go online, go to the phone, make the best gift you can. And today we'd love for you to request this book.

**BLYNDA:** "How'd I Miss That?", Cynthia Yanof.

**RANDY:** A lot of fun.

**BLYNDA:** This is-- it's such a fun read. Like it's--you're just so funny. That's just the best thing I can say. You are, you're just funny. So thank you for joining us today. It's been such a pleasure.

**CYNTHIA:** Thank you for having me.

**RANDY:** Where can they see your podcast? I want people to follow you.

**CYNTHIA:** It's called "MESSmerized," and it has two esses, like mess. Life is a mess, so "MESSmerized." And yeah, wherever you listen to podcasts, you can grab it there.

**RANDY:** "MESSmerized" with Cynthia Yanof. Great, we appreciate you being here.

**CYNTHIA:** Thank you.

**RANDY:** We appreciate you guys being here. Come back, we'll see you next time here on "Life Today."

*[music]*

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**FEMALE ANNOUNCER:** Visit [LifeToday.org](http://LifeToday.org), dive into your favorite "Life Today" programs. Visit [lifetoday.org](http://lifetoday.org) and experience the best of Life.

**CHAD PRATHER:** Whether it was the bottom of a bottle of alcohol or bottom of a bag of drugs, wherever I could try to find that reality is where I was looking.

**MALE ANNOUNCER:** Chad Prather, tomorrow.

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