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Week four: WFL

Randy Robison and Tammy Trent

Mission special #1

**RANDY:** Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Randy Robison. Tammy Trent is with me. And we're coming to you because there is a serious problem that needs addressing today, and there is something that you can do about it. We've talked a lot on *Life Today* about the need for clean drinking water and that is very, very real. It is a problem that takes the lives of people every single day. The numbers are astonishing. But the good news is that we can do something about it. But we can only do it when you stand with us and say, yes, we want to save a life, we want to reach out with the love of Christ. And you will be a part of it.

That's what we're going to ask you to do today. And Tammy, you have been to these places where water, the contaminated water just devastates communities and you've seen it but you know what we do works.

**TAMMY:** Yeah, I do. Randy, it's an interesting place for me to be when I travel to these countries and I'm in these communities and I'm looking at the devastation that's there all around these families. And they lead me many times to their water sources. I cannot describe the feeling of -- I just feel so hopeless sometimes in those moments when I look at these horrible conditions, especially when I'm seeing the little babies dip a cup of water into the water and drink it. It is devastating and it's hopeless almost for me in that moment of just thinking, I want to almost smack it out of their hand. Like don't drink it! Don't do this! But they have no other option. That's all they have. And if they don't drink that they may die. If they do drink it they may die. So it's one of those things of how can I change this? The urgency of how can I change this moment for this family? And it's a privilege for me to know that there is a solution and there is a way that we can change that.

**RANDY:** We can. It is really simple, give them another option, and that's what we can do. But take a look at the need and you'll see how you can be an integral part to be that solution, to be that option. Watch this.

### **On the mission field**

**ANNOUNCER:** These are just some of the diseases and ailments that nearly a billion people are exposed to every single day because their only water source is contaminated.

**JAMES:** You know if you were thirsty in Africa or many of the remote parts of the world, you'd walk up to a stream like this. You'd say, oh I've got great water. What you don't realize is in this area alone thousands of people got cholera, serious severe diarrhea. For many people, it cost them their children.

**ANNOUNCER:** Our mission teams have seen these water conditions firsthand in several countries around the world and they have ministered to families whose lives are torn apart by sickness and death simply because they had no other choice but to drink contaminated water.

**BETTY:** And they can't do anything about it because it's all the water that they have. I just can't even imagine. This little baby is so precious, so beautiful. Her mother loves her so much. I want to see this little baby live healthily because we've given fresh water to them.

**ANNOUNCER:** But there is a simple solution for these families, a clean water well. *LIFE Outreach* and its mission partners have the experienced teams and necessary equipment ready to drill hundreds of safe, life-giving water wells around the world.

**TAMMY:** James and Betty, I know that we share so many heartbreaking stories, but this day isn't one of them. This is a really good day. Clean water is here in this village and it is literally giving them Water for LIFE! Thank you so much everybody for all that you have given, all that you've sacrificed. It has changed so many lives of children all around the world just like here

today.

### **In the studio**

**TAMMY:** Honestly, those are my favorite trips to go on when I get to see how your partnership, and how your giving has changed the lives of so many people. I'll never forget that trip and standing around that well and just cheering with those kids and just knowing that their lives were about to be forever changed. Those are my favorite trips, Randy.

**RANDY:** It's wonderful! It's a great feeling because there is no worse feeling than when you're there, perhaps in a clinic or just out in a village and you see that child that has been devastated by waterborne illnesses. I've sat with doctors and you've got a child there who's got the tubes, they're trying to put fluids in there because the waterborne disease usually results in diarrhea so they get dehydrated. That's not a simple thing to always deal with, especially in these developing countries.

I've also knelt by graves that were short -- they were children. You go why? How does this happen? You see the pain in the eyes of the mothers, the fathers, and the grandparents who have lost their loved ones. And then you follow a trail, perhaps down to their water source and you look at it. And Tammy, you just -- I cringe. As a father, it just hurts me. Like you said you just want to go, don't drink that! And maybe we could stop them for a few hours while we're there in their village but the reality is they don't have a choice. They face the choice of drinking the only water they've got or don't drink any water at all. Both result in death.

And what we do, what you do when you partner with us results in life. And that's what we're asking you to do today is to partner with us to bring life to these families that have experienced so much pain. You can be the joy in their lives. And when you give, you do give Water for LIFE. And Tammy, you know we've talked about -- we've had people come in and say, I'm going to drill ten wells. Not everybody can do that. \$4800 is the average price of a well. When you look at the programs around the world, we're in 20 nations this year, our goal is 350 wells. Frankly, I would love to see us do even more than that but it just depends on your support. But the average

cost of a well is \$4800. That gets the big machinery into these remote locations. In some places, we have to drill deep to get to that clean water source, but it varies from country to country. But an average cost of \$4800 will provide that well, which will provide water for an entire village for typically 70 years because we do a good job. We build it sturdy. We want it to last. That's why we say Water for LIFE.

Now I understand not everyone can give a well but there is something you can do and we're asking you to do it today. For example, a gift of \$48 will provide on average water for ten people for life. That's ten graves that don't have to be dug and filled. A gift of \$144 will provide water for 30 people. We're just asking you to simply do what you can because the more people that say I want to be a part of this, the more successful we'll be. And Tammy, I know, I know we can make a difference.

**TAMMY:** I know. I know we can too. I love that you take a moment to explain that so, so well, Randy because I think when we partner with something so spectacular, we want to know, is this going to make a difference? And it absolutely does. What an honor and a privilege we've been given in the body of Christ to change the lives of so many people around the world. What a privilege truly.

**RANDY:** I'd like to show a story that you were a part of, Tammy and you'll remember this. It is heartbreaking but it is the opportunity we have. Watch this.

### **On the mission field**

#### **Open Captions**

>> It's a good time to share a little bit about my faith. Because when my husband died, I was depressed. Church members came over to my house, and they comforted me.

**TAMMY:** We've gotten a chance to spend some time with Leah today and got to hear her story. Come to find out we have a lot in common. We're both widowed.

**Open Captions**

>> We drink water from a small river down that hill, there. Due to the water, one of my sons is dead. Before that, my husband died.

**TAMMY:** When I come into these places and I see their water sources and know that it's a very hopeless situation for them, that water itself has brought death to her family. I would love to extend a hand of hope to Leah and many people just like her, especially in this village to be able to come in here and drill a well that will give her life and life more abundantly. It will take away the hardship that you feel, it will take away some of the pain that you feel to know that you have fresh water every single day. I know that's what you asked me for so I'm going to turn around and I'm going to ask you, would you please consider helping Leah and many, many people just like her right here in this village? And I'm hopeful that out of our own obedience that we respond in Jesus' name. I promise you, it won't be in vain.

**End of video****In the studio**

**TAMMY:** Probably one of my favorite trips, Randy, was that trip to Burundi. I got to meet and talk to so many precious people. But I'll never forget Leah because I just could relate so much to her and the pain she was carrying every day. First of all, being a widow, is something I could completely relate to, that kind of loss. And then to lose your son, as well. That's something I couldn't fully imagine. I knew the depth of my pain from one but the depth of pain from two, and to know that the source, especially that child was water. It was almost too much for me to bear just talking with her as we kind of walked through the village together and talked about life and talked about the hardship and the heartache. I just kept feeling how could I help her? How could I, a fellow widow, help this woman? How could I love her? How could I bring hope to her?

I think that's why the word *hope* came to me. Like I want to extend hope to her and I want to extend this opportunity to you as well to help bring hope to her life. And not just her, but it will trickle on down to hundreds of people in that village. So I think today even watching that again, it just reminds me of such a great need in that village, and in many villages all around the world.

And there is a really simple solution to bringing hope to Leah and to her family and to her friends in her community, and to that village. It is very simple.

**RANDY:** It is. Right now there are people, there are mothers, fathers, grandparents, and even siblings who are praying for their loved one who is sick. They don't know if they'll make it through the night; that is just the reality in so many places. So when you partner with us, you enable us. We have people on the ground right now in these places ready to go. You send them into these places to be an answer to that prayer, to give them hope that Tammy's talking about to the ones who have suffered so much loss.

It's so simple. It's so simple that you often may even wonder, well, why doesn't someone else do it? Why doesn't their government do it? Why doesn't God just miraculously spring forth water from the ground because he can? And here's one thing I've noticed throughout scripture. God always calls his people to perform his will. And we know that it's his will that none would perish, and I understand the context of that is eternity but it's also his will to look after the widows and the orphans, to meet the needs, to bring justice and mercy to those who are suffering. I believe it is the call of God on every Christian's life to step in and answer that prayer.

So here's my question for you. You know there are people that are hurting. Will you step in and say, God heard your prayer and I come in the name of Jesus Christ to bring you water, to bring you life? Will you do that today? You will be an answer to a prayer and you will be representing Jesus Christ in their lives, maybe for the first time. I hope you'll do it right now.

### **Begin video clip**

**ANNOUNCER:** *Every day thousands of lives are lost to waterborne diseases, and nearly half of those are children under the age of five. Through Mission: Water for LIFE, you can give mothers hope and children a future as we provide clean life-giving water for thousands of children and their families before it's too late.*

*With your gift today, you can help drill and establish 350 water wells this year! Your gift of \$24*

*will help provide clean water for five children. A gift of \$48 will help provide for ten. \$72 will provide for 15. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.*

*With a gift of any amount, we'll send you *The Birthright*. This book is a liberating and life-changing celebration of your birthright as a child of the King. Discover the joy of coming home to your Father's warm embrace.*

*With your gift of \$100 or more, we'll also send you the "Moments With Him" mug set. These two beautifully crafted coffee mugs feature scripture on the side, the perfect way to start your day and reflect on the goodness of God.*

*Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well, and request our new, inspiring bronze sculpture, "Consider the Birds" inspired by Jesus' words in Matthew 6:26.*

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

**End of video**

### **On the mission field**

[Rooster crowing]

**Announcer:** *Life -- carefree, nurturing, loving, secure. Universal needs for children and parents alike, yet in many places of the world such qualities are threatened every day by a simple and basic need -- water!*

### **Open Captions**

>> During the dry season, water is very hard to find. But our water source, year-round, is dirty and diseased. Sometimes our whole family gets sick. As a mother, it is so painful to be unable to provide for your kids. When my daughter was three years old, I gave her the water. It caused her

to start vomiting. She became very, very sick. She had diarrhea and her stomach was bloated. I didn't know what to do.

**Announcer:** *At that point, nothing could be done. Her daughter fell unconscious and never again awoke. Nown knew the cause.*

### **Open Captions**

>> No words can express the regret I feel for giving her that water... But what choice did I have? Now, I'm so afraid the water will also take my son. If I lose my son, I will have nothing to live for.

**Announcer:** *The lifesaving solution of clean water is so incredibly simple. However, it is one we can only deliver with your help today.*

### **End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**TAMMY:** When I see a mother that is carrying around so much fear of death, especially concerning her children, it leaves me in a place where I almost feel so helpless. I'm sitting next to them and I'm just watching them and I listen to them, especially when they're holding their children and they're concerned about the life of their child and how long they'll have them and just hoping that they will not get sick and that they will not die. I could not go on these trips, I couldn't continue to do this if I felt like every time I went just to hear a story that felt so hopeless and so hard to hear and get on a plane and come home and think, well, that was another sad story.

What are we going to do about it? If I didn't know that there was a solution here, I wouldn't be able to go. I wouldn't be able to go. But I think the reason I get back on a plane knowing that these are going to be hard trips for me, they're emotional, they're hard, I'm walking around, death all around me, and hardship and pain and I'm seeing it and I'm listening to it. And sometimes I get into that hotel room every night and I think, God, this isn't my life. I hate this for them. How



can I, how could you use me to change this? Especially for a mom that just carries around every single day the thought of losing a child. I can't fathom that.

And so I get on a plane and I come home and I tell the story to you because I know that there is a solution. I know that together we can join arms and hands and hearts and change it. I know that there is a way to change it. And today, we bring this story to you, this need to you, all these stories, these pieces, so many of them but just a few today, we bring to you to tell you that there is still a need and there is still a way to help these precious people.

Our goal this year is to go in and drill 350 wells in 20 nations. I hope we're able to do so much more than that but that's what our goal is and that's what our focus is. So for \$48 you can provide water for ten people. For \$144 you can provide water for 30 people. And for \$4800 you can help us go in and put in an entire complete well that will give Water for LIFE to at least on average 1,000 people in that village. It's going to change everything.

I can't do it by just telling you these stories. We have to take action. We actually have to do something about it together, and we have that opportunity today. Don't wait until tomorrow. If God is moving on your heart right now, then please respond right now. Respond to that need and I promise you -- I promise you that you and I together, and many other people, and this ministry will change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people today.

### **Begin video clip**

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**End of video**

### **On the mission field**

**Tammy:** We all face obstacles in life but often the reward on the other side motivates us enough to overcome them. These girls in need of life-giving water face unbelievable obstacles. They labor for hours each day, for miles walked and climbed to get it, and they do! Their strength and resilience is astounding. But for what? For water that looks like this? That's no reward. It is filled with sickness and death. Something they've encountered all too much of.

You see, their source of water is the one thing they can't overcome. But you know who can? We can...with your help. With your help, we can change the life of this girl...and this girl...and this mom...and this village. Please, all it takes is for each of us to do what God is leading us to do.

**End of clip**

**On the mission field**

**James:** You know what's amazing? We're just walking here by a dump and by just contaminated water and little old children will come over to us and just want a hug. They just want somebody to love them.

**Betty:** They do! Children do. They draw to that love and affection when they see it, James. Don't you think?

**James:** Oh absolutely! We can notice them, and we can say we want to help them but the only way we can give water to children like this and give them a better future is for you to care enough. We can come and see the need, we can pray about it, we can weep over it, but we can't meet the need unless you help us do it.

**Betty:** That's when the difference is made is when it is not only our gift but your gift and others' gifts that we can really make—we can make a change in these areas where it is so desperately needed. Please join with us and let's do that.

**End of clip****In the studio**

**TAMMY:** Go on the phone or go online right now and give the best gift that you possibly can. You must know that it's going to make a massive difference.

**RANDY:** Absolutely! We're so excited to be able to save lives! But again, it is only with your support. So thank you for all that you do. It's been like 24 years now.

**TAMMY:** Amazing!

**RANDY:** I know but the need is still great. So come be a part of this great life-giving outreach. We'll see you again next week.