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Week 46: Mission Feeding

Randy Robison and Tammy Trent

Kim Gravel

In the studio

TAMMY: Hello everybody. I'm Tammy Trent and this is Randy Robison. This is going to be a good day today.

RANDY: Are you sure?

TAMMY: Yes!

RANDY: Are you confident?

TAMMY: I am confident. We're so glad you're here with us at *Life Today*. And I'm so glad that Kim Gravel is here with us as well. When I started looking into her as a guest, I was like man, she looks so familiar. Like how do I know this girl? I started digging into it. She's like a reality show queen, QVC.

RANDY: Is that how you know her? You buy a lot of stuff on TV?

TAMMY: I don't! I don't think I've—no, well, I did. I bought a pressure washer once on QVC. It is still working today. But yeah, she's got her line of clothing and makeup, and doing all the things. And I started reading the book and I got so much out of this book, Randy. Like I was like I love this woman so much. Her testimony, her walk with God, her faith, and the confidence that God has built in her life. She has written a book called *Collecting Confidence*. It's one you're going to want to get.

I want to start this way before I introduce her. This is one of my favorite things that she says. I wrote it down. It says, "Life is hard. God is good. And people are crazy." Kim Gravel.

KIM: And I was speaking about myself when I said that. It's true.

TAMMY: There is so much truth in that!

KIM: Thank y'all for having me. Can I just say, just kicking off, this is the show—I'm so blessed to be here because I've been watching *Life Today* for decades—for decades. What a testament to how good God is, and how enduring his message is through you guys. I just want to say that straight up. I'm a big fan. I'm so glad to be here.

RANDY: Well, thank you for that. I had the privilege, Tammy didn't, of talking to you online and getting to know you. She read the book and said, "We've got to have her."

I said, "Well, I talked to her. Our audience needs to hear her."

Because what you're sharing is so fundamental and it is right where a lot of people live. And they look at you and think she's successful. She's got to have it all together. But yet, you say, hey, something is missing if it is just the world's accolades.

KIM: I've had a crisis of confidence just being here for 30 minutes. Do you know what I'm saying? Like every second is up and down. Because our confidence is not based on what we do or what we accomplish. I'm a type A person for sure.

TAMMY: Shocker!

KIM: Right? You can relate. Right? But at the same time, your confidence comes from the Lord and it's taken me 52 years to come to grips with what that means. And we're

living in a time, and I get emotional talking about it because I have two teenage kids and I just see so much hurt in the world, and people searching like never before. And we know what they're searching for. They're searching for the Lord. They're searching for that deep intimate relationship with him. That's the only way we can have true confidence.

But if you go tell people that, because I'm in the world not of it, I'm not in full-time ministry as traditional ministry would be, I'm on QVC, I'm doing reality TV, I help a lot of young people that might not understand what that means to have your confidence in the Lord. So I wanted to write a book to kind of explain that journey for me.

TAMMY: Yes! Tell me what that means for someone that's like—I don't know, I've lost my confidence. It is too late for me to be confident.

KIM: Oh, gosh! I hear that all the time.

TAMMY: Or it is too late for me to have purpose in my life? I don't even know what that looks like. I don't even know what confidence—where does confidence start in somebody's life if they're just struggling today to even know who they are?

KIM: Well, this is what I would say to start. First of all, get quiet and I know that sounds, some people say, okay, Kim, get quiet and have a quiet time and be with the Lord. But I mean that in a real way. And it doesn't have to be this traditional way that we do it. It might be five minutes in the car picking up your grandkids through the drive-through line at the school. Get quiet and ask him this question, Lord, what do you have for me? And not in the bigger sense.

We all know we're here as believers to share the gospel, and to praise and serve him, but specifically, what do you have me to do? And I think that's the biggest question people have. Because when I go around and I speak and even like on TV, I'm on live TV, weekly, five to seven hours weekly on live TV, and that's the number one thing I get. I

say to people, how many of you believe you have a purpose? Everybody raises their hand. One hundred percent—hands down, 100 percent. All right, put them down. How many of you know what that is? And it's crickets. You could hear a pin drop. No one has that answer. But God does. Jesus does, and he has one for us.

And when I decided to seek him in those still quiet moments, he didn't show me all at once because if he did, I would be like I can't do that. I mean he revealed it slowly. And then my confidence in walking with him and in him became—I don't know how to say it, just unshakeable.

TAMMY: When did that start for you? I know you have a back story because I read your book and it is so, so good. But I don't think you're a girl that—it sounds like you had confidence at one point in your life and then it was almost being stripped from your life through different voices in your life and you had to find that again. What was that season like for you?

KIM: It was rocky. It was full of doubt and full of mess. Full of mistakes. But in that weakness, I found my strength in him. There have been so many times that God has so gently reminded me. But there was one time that he brought me to my knees, and it was when I gave birth to my second, my youngest son. I was an older parent. I was 38 when I had my second child. So it was a high-risk pregnancy. I say all that to say, I was in the hospital by myself. And long story short, you have to get the book and read it, but I was on my knees in a pool of blood on the bathroom floor and I met him. I saw him. I saw the Lord. And it changed my whole perspective. I'd walked with God for so many years, and always been a good girl, always been a good Christian girl. But at this point, I knew, this was so much bigger than me. This is so much bigger than my child. You know this, Tammy, you know this, Randy. You know! I felt him in a real way.

And y'all, when I had that experience, I didn't say to myself I just want to hug my kids one more time. Or I want to see my husband. When I was coming out of that God said, "You know what? It is not your time."

But I said, "But I don't want to leave you."

He said, "You're going back."

And all of this was happening in like a swirl.

I remember saying, "Why? Why? Why do you want me to go back?"

That's the question. Why? Why are you here? It's got to be bigger than just family. Y'all, I'm serious. I may ruffle a few feathers because family is so important. But the family, the body of Christ, and the family of God are so much bigger. Maybe I'm getting a little preachy so just shut me up here.

RANDY: No, this is good! Here's my question because we're all broken to some degree and it takes, oftentimes, some really hard circumstances for us to admit that. But we lack confidence because we know we've made mistakes. We know we're a mess. We know we're broken and we think God can't do anything with that. Isn't that sort of one of the biggest lies we could ever buy into? That's why we say our confidence is in him because it is not in us. Right? How did you—how did God handle your mess, your brokenness?

KIM: Oh gosh! So insightful, the question. And I am a big old mess every single day. There is nothing about me that has it together. Nothing! A thousand percent. People say, oh, Kim, you're such—Nothing! Not one thing I'm always making messes. I just made a big mess with the kids last night. But I have learned to just let God take that and use it. He works all things together for the good of those who love him. And I believe that but I think he does even so much more. I don't think we can understand the depth of how he takes—he knows we're going to mess up. He knows I am broken. He knows I'm a mess but he knows—he's confident enough in what he can do through that mess through me. And that's what I lean on. That's what I remind myself of.

RANDY: At the same time, that can't be an excuse.

KIM: True! True!

RANDY: So I know—

KIM: And I've used it, by the way.

RANDY: But I know from your story that God has done a lot of transformation in your life. What has that looked like?

KIM: It's been a slow and steady process. I've had a lot of makeovers, literally, physically, and spiritually. But the beautiful thing about those transformations, Randy, is he is so faithful. He's always there. I'm not always there. But he is. And every time I'm going through this growth period, and you know what, you've got to be stretched. He stretches you, he challenges you, he does all of those things like working out your faith muscle but through all those transitions, through all those transformations he's there. I guess I've had so many that now I just trust it. I've had so many and I think—and then I want to say this too because I say this in the book, and everybody has. There's always been that thread of transformation in our lives but a lot of times we don't stop and remember or recognize it.

RANDY: Well, and to your point of confidence, we know that he is shaping us, conforming us to the image of Christ. That's the goal once you become a believer, the maturity is that we're the clay, he is the potter. He is conforming us to the image of Christ. And that's where we can be confident that okay, as long as I'm allowing him to shape me, the mistakes are going to happen. I don't want them. I don't live there but I allow him to take them and shape us. That's what I hear so much of you saying.

KIM: Yeah, and I've got to quote my mother. I grew up in a very—my grandfather was a minister, my dad was a P.K. kid, so fill in the blanks there. And then my mom, we've

grown up in the church.

RANDY: What are you saying?

KIM: That's a whole other book! That's a whole other book. Nothing is hinted there—not a thing intended. So I say this all the time, my family were tobacco farmers and preachers so my whole foundation is in the church and in the dirt. That's how I grew up. And so faith has always been this bedrock to me. But it was through the mess that it became tangible, that it became almost tactile. My faith became so alive. And so, when you've experienced something in a real way and you've experienced him in a real way over and over and over again, we just have to remind ourselves and everybody listening, my daddy always says to me, "If you're not dead, you ain't done." If you're not six feet under, he's still got ya. My mother is 76 and the best model for our brand that we could ever have. I mean, come on, now! I mean he can use anything and will use everyone.

TAMMY: And he wastes nothing. And that's part of when I think, he wastes nothing. Even in the mistakes, even in the pain, that's part to me, if we lean into it and learn from it, if we're willing to learn from the mistakes, that's part of collecting the confidence knowing from whom our confidence comes from, ultimately. And if you're steady on that, then even to me in the mistakes, God teaches us things.

You know, there is something, Kim, you said in your book, and it goes back to talking about brokenness but I'm going to flip that for a second because you said something in your book that resonated with me. It says you're not broken, you don't need fixing. You're not—like you don't outgrow God's plan for your life. So yes, I believe there are times in my life when I've been broken. There are times in my life when I probably said I'm broken and yet, the reality is I have heard the voice of God say no, you're not. You don't need fixing. You need a different confidence in this. Stop speaking this over your life. You are not broken. You are healthy, you are healed, you've come to the other side of the brokenness. Now step out in the confidence. And sometimes, I think so many of us want to stay in the identity of the brokenness because it is familiar, it is what we know, and it

is what we think we deserve.

KIM: It is comfortable!

TAMMY: We don't need anything more. But God has more. And I think when we start to tap into that and that confidence that he has within us, we can overcome anything in our lives. We are capable of so much more than we believe we are, just like you in your life. When you went to that apartment, you started painting those walls that were Pepto-Bismol pink and said it is the best. But you were almost at rock bottom but you began to build something even in the brokenness that you thought you had come to the other side. And look at where your life is today!

KIM: The brokenness is—when I say we don't need fixing, I specifically thought and heard for myself that I needed to fix and clean up and do what I need to do to come back. I'd made so many mistakes. And the Lord spoke to me in that still small voice. He said, "I've already fixed it, honey. You can't outfix me." I mean, talk real talk. I'm not an eloquent speaker. I'm not a highly educated person but that's smart to me, girl. I know what I know. I'm telling you, you don't need fixing because he's already fixed it.

RANDY: He is the fix.

KIM: He's the fix! Yes! Yes!

RANDY: In the 22nd Hebrew lesson, there are actually two different words that we translate as brokenness. One of them is a brokenness which is a complete ruin, no value—nothing. And that's when the enemy comes to us and says you're broken, you're ruined, you're done! And then there is the godly brokenness where we say, God, I'm empty of myself. Contrition is the better word. That's the brokenness that we come to where he goes, I am the fix. Now, you're fixed. Now, you're whole. But we have to bring that to him. And that's what I see you going through in your life—

KIM: It's a shame though. Why do we have the shame? And I'm asking you a question.

[Laughter]

Why do we have the shame?

RANDY: That's the lie. That's the lie because he says, it is covered. Leave it at the cross, you can leave it behind because he is the cure for the brokenness. And that's where our confidence comes from. We collect it all through scripture.

KIM: Book two is me and you. Book two, I'm telling you because you're so right. It is in our weakness. It is! And the weaker we are the stronger he is. I just know for me, I can only speak for my own personal walk. When I try to be strong it never works out.

RANDY: So here's a question that you discussed in the book and I thought it was very important because given our age group, you know, how do we convey this to our children, our grandchildren? How do we leave that legacy of confidence in the Lord?

KIM: Well, it's a good question because I think today there are so many people clamoring—you know, the clanging cymbals. So many are clamoring for our children's attention and our grandchildren's attention. I think we have to be it. I think there's a lot of talk and talk is cheap. It is the walk that they watch. And so the best thing I could ever do for my kids and we can do for our children and our nieces and nephews, is to walk in that full confidence of who Jesus is. I will tell you I just had a little—it was homecoming. My son didn't have a date. He's going to go by himself. I can't believe I'm telling all your business, honey. Sorry! But he wanted a homecoming date. He wanted one. I said, "Well, let's pray about it."

He goes, "Mom, God doesn't care about my homecoming date."

I said, "Sure he does. Sure he does!" He still doesn't have the homecoming date, it is

Saturday but I believe—but I believe and that's what I'm saying. We have to walk that out for the young people.

It is hard though because I cannot tell you the things that come for these kids. It's not like you've got to go seek it now. He is seeking whom he may devour. He's coming for him. But he ain't going to get them. He's not going to get them. We're going to be that. We're going to be that confident body. We're going to be that confident in Christ's voice.

TAMMY: Part of that, too, to me is that statement that you make, I've read this in the book, like being careful of your "I am" statements. And so many of us can get caught up in the I am this—I am that—but who does God say you are?

KIM: My dad, my dad, I love my dad. We're just real talk people. I just had my first child and I'd gained like 50 pounds and I'm like, "I feel so fat and gross!" And I was hitting him.

And he goes, oh! I was crying, and he goes, "Oh girl, you're not a fat girl. You're just living like one!"

I was looking—he's like, Ooh! I told you he's real talk. But I knew it was a lightbulb moment for me. We're not broke, we're living like it. We're not lost, we're living like it. What we're looking at is what we're living like. When you look at him, it's so funny how our circumstances are, everything changes. You cannot help but be healed and whole walking with Christ.

RANDY: Because it is his wholeness. It is not mine, it's his! That's it. I love it. I love your message. I love the book. If people want to follow up, they can go to your website and stuff. But Tammy, I would love to put this in people's hands.

TAMMY: Yeah, let's do it! Let's do it!

RANDY: If they'll help us walk the walk.

TAMMY: Yes. We need your help for sure. Look, I want you to take just a minute and watch this. There is something really special and important that we together get to be a part of. Watch this.

On the mission field

ISAK: So we're here in rural Angola and we've been talking to you about the drought that's ravaged this area. Not a one-year drought, not a two-year drought—five years of drought! For five years they've not had enough rainfall to grow a single crop. If you look here, you'll see what's left of this farm is just dry remnants of a crop that used to be.

How has the drought affected your ability to, lack of rain affected your ability to be able to farm?

Open Captions

>> There is no rain to cultivate and plant corn. We can't harvest anything. I usually close the door early, so the children can't go out and ask the neighbors for food.

ISAK: I'm sorry. I'm sorry, mom! I'm sorry. I'm sorry, mom.

I know that she would provide for her children—give her half a chance. Just give her the rain she needs, and she will cultivate that land. She will work herself as hard as she has to work to provide for those children. "But it never rains anymore" is what she said. Five years of drought.

I hope you feel like I do. And if you do, then I'm asking you to please say yes, I'm going to be a part of bringing food and changing the situation for this mother, for her child, so she doesn't have to close the door early anymore before they go to bed hungry.

End of video

In the studio

TAMMY: Isak, I do feel like you feel. I do want to help. I know that there are so many watching today that feel the same way. When you see a piece like that and just think, what can I do to help? And is it even reachable? Is it doable? And the beautiful thing is, it absolutely is. This bowl right here is life-changing, life-giving. I would love to send a different story to that mama that says keep the doors wide open. There's enough for you. There is enough for your neighbors. There is enough for that entire village.

So we can do that if we come together today. We can do that, not just for her but so many other children, so many other families. Would you help us today fill this bowl? Fill it more and more and more so that we can go out and change the world one life at a time. It's completely doable.

Right now, Randy, we are feeding every day 350,000 children. It's amazing. But there are so many more that need this food. And so we have a vision. We've got it all in place but it's going to take you to join us.

RANDY: Right. And the only reason we can feed 350,000 children every day is because of viewers like you have made it possible. We need to continue. As you saw there, the drought is ongoing and there are other situations in other countries where we do the Mission Feeding as you've seen, Tammy where you just find children who are going to bed hungry. We just believe no child should ever go to bed hungry. I know that happens here in the United States and Canada and Australia. In these areas where we're talking about, you have parents who have worked their whole lives to provide what little they can. And now something has happened to where even that hard work doesn't pay off. It is not neglect. That child could maybe go ask the neighbors for food, and the neighbors probably won't have any food either. It is what we call "abject poverty." And it is in this difficult situation, this hopeless situation that viewers like you have brought hope over the years. And we want to continue.

Will you make a gift today towards Mission Feeding that will enable this to continue to help for however long it takes to get these children out of the state of malnutrition they're in so that they can return to school and maybe sometimes helping with the harvest when it does come in?

Here's how it works. A gift today of \$30 will help feed three children for the next three months. A gift of \$50 will help feed five children for the next three months. \$100 for ten children. You see how it works. It only works that way because we have the people and the processes in place that we've developed over the years. And when we go in with that bowl of food, of nourishment, we go in with the love of Jesus Christ. We feed their bodies, and we feed their souls.

Many of you could make a \$1,000 gift today and feed 100 children for the next three months. Maybe \$3000, \$5000, whatever it is God puts on your heart. The important thing is a response. You see a need, it's very real. You are the solution. Will you respond today? I pray that you will.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Across the continent of Africa children are suffering, facing severe malnutrition, and even death. With food reserves gone, and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us.

Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach your gift of love can be an answer to prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need. Call now with your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months.

With your gift of any amount, we'll send you the brand-new *LIFE* planner. Bound in soft-touch leather, this planner will help you with your daily walk, with space for you to

record your appointments, goals, inspirational notes, and prayers.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the "God's Promise" serving bowl. This beautiful and versatile ceramic bowl is decorated with Second Corinthians 9:8 and will make a lovely addition to your table or home.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our 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

In the studio

RANDY: So many people have answered the call and we're feeding so many children. We have to continue. We can only do it with your support. So I pray you'll do the best that you can today. When you do, be sure to request Kim's book, *Collecting Confidence*. I know it will bless people, Tammy.

TAMMY: It's going to bless you. You have blessed us today.

KIM: Oh, I love y'all.

TAMMY: Thanks for being here.

KIM: Y'all are best!

TAMMY: Thanks for loving Jesus. Thanks for staying—oh! I have a treat for you. I bought you this for if there is ever a time in your life when you just want to go back to the simpler days, just be reminded that God is in every moment in every detail of your

life. Kim, here is some Pepto Bismol.

KIM: I absolutely love—this is just making my—this is just made the whole book tour ever, good night, thank you, amen. This is so good.

RANDY: You're going to have to request the book to get that joke. But we appreciate you guys. Thank you for being with us. We'll see you again next time on *Life Today*.