

**11-10-23 from 4/28/23**

**Week 18: Spring Mission Feeding**

**Randy Robison and Tammy Trent**

**Mission Special #1**

**In the studio**

**RANDY:** Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Randy Robison. Tammy Trent is with me. And we have some urgent information that we want you to hear. I just got off the phone with Isak Pretorius, our mission partner in Southern Africa and there are many situations that are taking place around the world right now that demand we jump in, and we take action. From natural disasters to conflict, to things left over from the whole COVID disruption, there are people on the verge of starvation. Many of them are already there. And the problem is only increasing.

But we have a solution that can only work when you help. And Tammy, over the years you've been there, you've seen the situation, you know how quickly things can deteriorate into malnutrition, into starvation, and into death. I think it is critical that we do something right now to stop that whole cycle.

**TAMMY:** Absolutely! I think Randy, that is honestly key, is to be able to step in before it gets to such a place that it is almost hard to turn it back. I think when you go into those clinics and see those children in that state, they're so close to death already. It is so heartbreaking, especially when we know that there is a way that we could have prevented that process from happening.

And so I think today, as you watch some of the incredible stories that we're going to bring you, I know that your heart is going to be moved just as our hearts are moved when we are there on the ground with these families and with these children. And just that

feeling of knowing that it is desperate, it is urgent, it is critical, and that we have a way to help bring food to these little lives, these little children, to hopefully keep them from having to go into these clinics where they are near death.

I would love you to take some time to consider today partnering with this incredible ministry that is literally saving hundreds of thousands of lives every single year.

**RANDY:** And sadly, statistically, Tammy, children have died while we've been talking. It happens that fast— and not literally just statistically when you look at the number of people impacted.

But here's the good news. We can do something about it. We can do something about it today. We know this because we have been doing this for decades now. But the situation is such that when disruptions occur, when conflicts occur, and like I mentioned with coming out of COVID, the economic strain that that has put around the world, it is always the most vulnerable that suffer first and the most. And that's why it is critical that we go into these places around the world, primarily Sub-Saharan Africa with a bowl of simple nutritional soup mix made just for them to bridge that gap between the desperate situation they're in now and that point where they can again take care of themselves. That's all they need is for someone to come in and get them through a most difficult time.

It is urgent but we do have a solution and we do need you to be a part of it. Watch this really quickly and then we'll tell you how you can start saving lives today.

### **On the mission field**

**ANNOUNCER:** Every six seconds another child under the age of five dies.

[Clock ticking]

Why are young children like these fighting for their lives? It is because their mothers simply have no food for them. Malnutrition, known as the silent killer, then compromises their immune system, in turn making them more susceptible to dying from common childhood illnesses.

[Clock ticking]

Statistics tell us this year alone, the mortality rate for children under the age of five will exceed 5 million, with malnutrition being a contributing factor in nearly half those children's deaths.

[Clock ticking]

The question becomes, can we stop this cycle of death for the remaining children in Southern Africa? Those who find themselves in a food crisis, urgently needing help before malnutrition claims its next victim?

**ISAK:** If we can get to these villages where this child comes from, and we can get Mission Feeding into those villages, we're able to ensure that we wind that clock back. We retell that story. That's why we say Mission Feeding saves lives because it does. Saving this child's life doesn't happen because of us. It happens because of you.

[Clock ticking]

**End of video**

**In the studio**

**TAMMY:** It is so true. We couldn't do any of this without your help. There is a great, great need today at this exact moment. Just like Randy said, every six seconds, every few moments, we are losing another one and another one.

When I sit bedside in those clinics like Isak was, it's so heartbreaking because I think you're looking at the face of death in these little ones that have no way of pretty much fighting themselves.

But I feel so privileged that we have an opportunity to fight for them. And so I think Randy, when I'm in those situations, it's heartbreaking. And yet, I also have been in places where I know that there is a solution and I know that there is a way to help their lives even before they get to that place of near death.

**RANDY:** And you know, the clinics are the worst. You and I have been there. I've been there literally one day where I prayed for a child in the daytime and then we went out and shot some other footage and found out later that night that that child passed away. That's hard. You want your prayers answered right now miraculously. And the reality is that we have to be the answer to the prayer.

I find it interesting, Tammy. When Jesus was speaking to the crowds and the day was ending and the disciples were like, "Lord, let's send them home. They're hungry." Right? "Let them go get something to eat."

What did Jesus say? He looked at them and said, "You feed them."

And of course, they said, "We don't have enough food." I feel like that sometimes. We want to feed all of these children, and sometimes adults that are in critical need. We don't have the ability to but what did Jesus say? Give what you can. Give the best you can. And when we do that in obedience, in numbers, miracles happen.

**TAMMY:** They totally do. And I think sometimes it can feel overwhelming because you see the need and the need is overwhelming. It really is. So sometimes, I think we think like how am I going to make a difference? How is the little bit that I have to give going to make a difference with the big problem that I see? And the truth is it all makes a difference. Everything makes a difference.

Every gift that you give makes an eternal impact into the lives of these little children that have been set forth to live a great abundant life of joy and a great future. I want to help be a part of that in their lives. And I know you do too. And if God has blessed you today to help partner with us to make a difference in the lives of these children, then I would ask you to please consider doing that. It doesn't matter how big or how small, it will all make a huge impact.

**RANDY:** It will. And let me just tell you quickly how it works because we have been in these places for years working, trying to prevent the situations in the malnutrition clinics. The malnutrition clinics are a wonderful resource, but we want to go into the villages where the malnutrition is just starting to set in. We want to stop it earlier in the process. And because we've been doing this for so long, we have people like Isak in place. We have trucks on the ground. We have food that's ready to go. We need to get it there. We need to acquire more food in many cases depending upon the circumstances. But because we already have so much in place, the average per bowl of food is very, very low, and yet the value, nutritional value and the lifesaving value is very, very high.

We look across all the programs, we look at feeding 350,000 children every day, that's a lot of children. It breaks down to a \$30 gift today will enable us to basically feed three children for three whole months. A gift of \$50 will feed five children for several months. If you can make a gift of \$1,000, that would feed 100 children for approximately three months. What an amazing thing. I look at this, Tammy and I go, why would you not want to do that?

**TAMMY:** I know! Honestly! And I don't know if people are like me sometimes when I see such a program on TV and I think somebody else will take care of it. I'm so busy right now and I don't even know if my gift of \$30 will make a difference. So somebody else will do it. And I have learned, even being a part of this ministry, don't wait for the next person to jump in and rescue a little one. Why don't you be that person? Let God use you.

Truly, like I said before, if we've been blessed, like I have an extra \$30. I think we're all navigating around numbers in our lives and trying to be smart with our money, truly. But I think we all could say I have a little bit extra that I could give right now. Because I have food, I have water, I have clothes, I have a home, I have a television I'm watching right now. But these little ones and these families on the other side don't have any of that.

So if we could be a part of just bringing them even just some food today that will help them survive another day and another day, and many of them like Randy said, three more months, and another three months, that's something I want to be part of. That is life-giving. And I think as believers, as the body of Christ, I truly believe that when we are aware of a need, I believe that God says step up. Just step up and do something. And be my hands and feet and make a difference because I've blessed your life. I've given you food so please turn around and help another one that just doesn't have a way to get to food.

If you could give and partner, that's the easy step. We'll do the rest of the work. We're asking you to just partner with us and give what you can, and we'll do the rest of the work. We're on the ground. The infrastructure is there. We're ready to go. We just need you to help us to get on the other side of that line so that we can keep moving into these villages and into these clinics and we can rescue and save one child at a time.

### **On the mission field**

**Tammy:** The things that I've seen, the things that I've gotten to experience have been emotional. There's been some good days and there's been some bad days.

My favorite days are when I get to go into a village and serve the children, especially when I get to sit down and feed them a bowl of food that they get every day. What an incredible moment that really is knowing that in that place and in that moment, I'm privileged to be a part of bringing them life through a bowl of food.

Then you get in the car the next day and you travel hours to get to a clinic like this only to sit in a place like this and to watch this precious little girl fight for her life because she doesn't have that one bowl of food every day. Her body is shutting down. She is dying. I wonder how long she has to live. I think if she was in a village where there was a feeding program set up, how her life would be so very different.

I've seen the power in just one bowl of food. Something so incredibly simple that brings life to so many hundreds of thousands of children!

It's hard to watch any child die knowing that there's something we can do to help prevent that death!

**End of clip**

### **In the studio**

**TAMMY:** I'll never forget being in that clinic with that little girl at the end there. She could hardly breathe. She couldn't move. And she'd just look up at me and I would just rub her hand or head or little body. I think the worst feeling for me is being in those places watching these little ones so helpless and dying. Dying right in front of me because they don't have food.

I honestly have such a hard time wrapping my head around that thought, especially when I do travel maybe the next day to a village and I sit there with hundreds of little kids and I hand them a little bowl of food, and I know that it is the very thing that is saving their lives at that exact moment.

I think how could we have gotten to that little girl? How could I have changed it for her? I know that it is a matter of raising the funds, gaining more partners in this ministry so that we can go into the next village that isn't set up for Mission Feeding. And that we can

set that up to make sure that every little child gets food every day and doesn't go hungry.

Randy, it's such an easy program that we have set up. We've got everything in place to make this happen so that not one child has to die of starvation.

**RANDY:** And when you look at the big problem, the enormity of it, and you do feel a little helpless at times, you just remember you save them one life at a time.

I want to show you something. Just watch these pictures because what you're seeing now is a village where Mission Feeding has been going on. And you see smiles, you see laughing, you see playing, you see them learning, getting an education, and we do a lot of these programs at schools very intentionally because we want these children to get an education, to get a future. But it is hard to learn when you have an empty stomach or when your body is breaking down because you are weak and malnourished.

The difference between a good day and a bad day for a child, oftentimes, is what's in that bowl. And whether that child has a good day or bad day tomorrow is often determined by the response of people just like you, our viewers.

When you realize that \$100 will help feed ten of those children for the next three months, you can see how your gift literally is oftentimes, Tammy, it will be that difference between learning or ending up in a malnutrition clinic—possibly even ending up in a grave.

And I know you've seen one particular graveyard where they dig the graves, they're short, and when you see that you say why is that? Then it hits you, they're expecting a child to fill that grave. And sadly, they know that it is going to happen. We can stop that.

**TAMMY:** We can, and I don't want to wait. Like we talked about earlier, like so many times you think somebody else is going to do it for you or for them. But let's be the change. If you've given before, thank you so much. We're so grateful for it. If you can



give again, it would be incredible if you could consider doing that. And if you've never partnered with us before, I pray that today is that day that you say, man, I want to be the difference. I want to help save a life. I want to be an answer to a prayer for these mamas that are just asking and reaching and hoping. Let's be the hope for them today.

### **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**

### **On the mission field**

**ISAK:** In these areas of southern Angola, they're facing the worst drought in over 40 years, crops that have failed year after year. One and a half million people are facing severe hunger; 114,000 children under the age of five right now are suffering from acute malnutrition.

And we see it when we visit the malnutrition clinics here. Literally, over-filled clinics with children fighting for their lives. Nine days ago this grandmother, Duonece, brought her grandson Jrah to this clinic, literally because he was battling the battle of life and death; fighting for his life because he had acute malnutrition. How, you might ask? Because she didn't have any food to feed him. When I asked her about her food situation, she became very emotional. Explained to me that there are as many days where she has no food to feed him they go without food. That's how a child like this ends up with his skin literally peeling off his body, as the body starts to shut down, trying to just keep him alive. But we're seeing more and more children suffering like little Jhar, many of them dying in villages before we can ever reach them.

What is the solution, you say? This is it. The solution is food, and us being here as mission teams reaching these children, each and every one of them, getting to these mothers, answering their prayers, and saving their children's lives.

### **End of video**

### **In the studio**

**RANDY:** We've been fighting some droughts, especially in Angola now for a while. We've seen a lot of positive things take place, but we still have a great need.

If you look over in other areas, we have just had a team return from South Sudan in the last few months and they reported some same type of things with the clinics being overcrowded, the food shortages. It is a situation that's ongoing. But we are making a big

difference.

There was one story, Tammy, I saw where mothers were grinding up the corncobs. The corn was gone, and they were grinding up these corncobs to try to put something into the stomachs of their children so they wouldn't feel so hungry. But there is no nutritional value there. We have to bring them nutritional value.

And then, as I mentioned, when we started, you heard me on the phone with Isak before we came out here and there is a situation in Mozambique where the people are facing persecution. There are Muslim extremists up in the north that are committing atrocities. It drives people to the south. And Isak was telling us that he has spoken to many people who have suffered horrendous things. And now they are in a camp, a displacement camp for people that are fleeing that. And we are there on the ground helping to provide the emergency food.

These are the types of situations we're dealing with in those countries and in some others. But the one factor that covers whatever situation we're facing is our supporters saying we want to help. We want to provide that bowl of food. That's when we see a difference.

**TAMMY:** Huge impact. And it is not just words from us, Randy. You and I both have been there, we've been on the ground and so we do see the impact. That story that we saw earlier with me being in a clinic, and then another day being in a village feeding these children, we do see the impact, we see those children thriving in those villages. And we know that it is making a difference.

We're committed to it. We're not going to leave. We're committed. We're staying. Even as bad as it is getting right now, we are not leaving. We are going to stay and we're going to help with every breath we have, with every dollar that God provides for us. We are going to make a difference and we will work hard to save the lives of these children.

**RANDY:** Absolutely. The one thing that people need to know though is that time is not

on our side. Time is not our friend. It is a thief that robs children of their lives. We have to act. We have to act today.

And that's why I'm asking you to go to the phone or go online right now and make the best gift you can, \$30 for three children, \$50 for five children, \$100 for ten children, maybe \$1,000 for 100 children for the next three months. What can you do? And we're counting on you. We're counting on those of you that have stepped up in the past and those of you for the first time that are saying, I want to be a part of the solution.

Go on the phone, go online, make the best gift you can and do it now.

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**End of video**

**In the studio**

**RANDY:** For over three decades now, our outreaches have been attributed with saving the lives of 18 million children! Which is beautiful, Tammy. It is wonderful! It is encouraging. But here's my question. Will you save the next one? Who is going to do that? We need people to step up right now and say yeah, I want to save that one and that one and that one. We can do it.

**TAMMY:** Absolutely! We can do it. We have done it and there is so much more work to be done. Please, if you'd consider partnering with us today it will make a huge, massive impact. Go online, make that call today and make the best gift you possibly can. It means so much to us. But more than us, it means so much to these families and these children. I know that together we can make a huge impact and change the lives of these children forever. Thank you so much and we'll see you next time on *Life Today*.