

12/24/21

**Week 52: Fall Mission Feeding**

**Christmas special**

**JAMES:** Oh, my goodness! I wish we were all together during this Christmas season and this Christmas program. We really celebrate with our family because Christmas is family time, and they're family.

**BETTY:** Absolutely! You are family -- part of *LIFE Outreach's* family. We bless you this day. We ask that God just honor your family being together, and you'll have such a joyful time! But let's also remember what time we are celebrating, and that is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is the greatest gift of all that can be given to any of us. So God bless you, and have a blessed, blessed holiday.

**JAMES:** I want you to know that if we were all in the family room together, COVID or no COVID, I'd give every one of you a hug. I wish I could get so close to you that you knew he's talking to me right now. I want to tell you how much we thank God for your friendship. We thank God that somehow you were drawn to *LIFE Today* and perhaps the outreaches of *LIFE*. We're grateful that you saw enough of the glory and the grace and the love of God in Betty, perhaps in me, and in our guests. And then what we're doing all over the world, to put the arms of the living Jesus, who was born to show us life and the reality of kingdom purpose and power, but then to die that we might live.

But we're celebrating his birth, and we celebrate it together. Listen to these verses in Luke two: And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy..." -- that's Jesus! "Joy unspeakable, full of glory," Paul said -- "which shall be to all people." It is the joy he offers everyone through the grace and life purchased through his death on the cross. "For unto you is born this day" -- that we celebrate the Christmas day -- "in the city of

David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

I want you to listen to what the prophet Isaiah so perfectly and appropriately said about this wonderful occasion and this indescribable person. "For unto us, a child is born" -- in a manger wrapped in just swaddling clothes -- "unto us a son is given, and the government shall be on his shoulders."

I wish we would all understand that he really should carry, with his wisdom and guidance, all the direction and outreach of governments. Yes, and his shoulders are his people, his body, the church. Keep that in mind. "He's called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace."

Betty, this is a precious season to us. You have prayed for me and Betty, and our family. I've told you many times of the miracles that happened in our lives: our children growing up to love God when I was missing because I was trying to help all the families in this nation; when I stayed away from my family to help yours. I thought I failed many times as a father, but you didn't fail in your prayers for me and Betty and our children. And boy, what a miracle they turned out to be. Well, I want to thank you for that.

But I want to say something to you if I can very, very personally. We have been blessed in our family. Most of you know that I grew up without a father; I didn't have a home. Now I've got this incredible family. That's what I want to tell you about. You know we had three children, the third one was a miracle, the second one we adopted because she couldn't have more children. Well, three years after we adopted Randy, we had our little miracle, Robin.

Think about this now. Those three children gave us 11 grandchildren. And now then, we have 11 great-grandchildren. Because I believe I'm right in this, ten of the 11 are married, and seven of them have children. So we have those 11 great-grandchildren, and there you can see them. I hope just as you scan over them, I'm not going to try to give you all their names, first and last names, and for some, a new last name, not just a middle name, all of it different. I could just get so scrambled. But those kids are so beautiful. I think the oldest is six; is that right? And the

youngest a few months. The thing about it is, we have, I believe, am I right about this? We have three more coming. So that's going to give us 14 great-grandchildren with the 11 grandchildren means we have 25 grandchildren, this fatherless kid that was a product of a rape, a forced sexual relationship. And a doctor wouldn't abort this baby.

When you think about that, God can give a family such joy in life that wasn't even supposed to be. We've got to be really careful that we're not ending lives. All are precious! All have unlimited potential and promise. God forgive us. And the only way we're going to stop the murder of the unborn is to show everyone how precious every life is. If God notices even a little sparrow fall, how precious is the life of every human being and every person, however old or young? The only way we stop it is to see how precious it is, the potential in that life, and say we will not do that. Because you couldn't change enough laws or make enough laws or totally, let's say acknowledge that was wrong and then change the law if you don't change the hearts.

So we have seen miracles in our family. But we've had heartache. And I'm talking to a lot of people right now, while I'm talking about the family coming together, who are saying, James, I wish, some of my family is not here. You see, we've said good-bye to many of our friends because we're in our late 70s. And many of our friends who were a little older, a little younger, many are gone, and we lost some in this disease. So there are some empty places.

Lord, I want you to fill the empty space in the heart of all of those who are missing someone. I want you to give them supernatural comfort! Please, hold them.

And I promise you, I would have held you close. God wants to. I want to thank you for all these times that you've helped us put God's loving arms around the least of these or the most overlooked people perhaps on the planet -- the poorest of the poor, the hungry, the thirsty, the people who have been thrown into bondage in trafficking, all the hurt and pain.

I know you're going to join your heart with me and Betty because you know when we look back at the last Christmas that we had with Robin, how many years ago now, Betty?

**BETTY:** It will be nine.

**JAMES:** It's Christmas. Nine years ago, three days after Christmas, said good-bye to Robin. I want them to just kind of pull in close on Robin's three grandbabies. Before she died, she said several times to Betty, "Mom, you think I could live to see my grandchildren?" Of course, her kids were teenagers, and none had married. But now they're beautifully married. God, such magnificent things to see what God's done in those parents of these three beautiful, little great-grandchildren. Aren't they beautiful?

And I know Robin is looking in on us. And I know our daughter, who experiences heaven, but she shared the kingdom of heaven here in her life, she's saying to all of us, "Rejoice in the gift of Jesus. Rejoice in gratitude for the love of God. But let that love and that life and the reality of kingdom flow through you like a river."

I want to pray for you right now. Betty, just join me.

Father, as our wonderful viewers who love so many people that they've never seen and so many of them have never been noticed until Jesus caused others to notice. I want you to comfort them. I want you to bless them. I want you to heal the broken hearts.

God, I want you to put a joy unspeakable in the hearts and lives of all our supporters and friends because we are right here in the family room together as your family, and you're our Father, and your gift is our Savior and our Lord and our King of kings! And we want to live to make a kingdom impact. So God help us to do that. Heal every broken heart, comfort those who need to be comforted.

Lord, please heal the memories and fill them with gratitude and joy for the greatness of your Son, your salvation, and all that you offer in freedom and fullness, and fruitfulness and joy, in Jesus' name.

I want you to hear some beautiful music. The first song is going to be 4Him. We used to always

say every time we saw that group, you've got to sing, "Drummer Boy." Mark Harris has become such a close friend! What a gifted member of the great 4Him, wonderful, communicating, spirit-filled quartet. But he's going to sing for you, "Little Drummer Boy." And you're going to hear some more music that's really going to bless you and exalt the Lord.

**Begin video clip**

[Mark Harris singing]

Come they told me

Pa rum pum pum-pum

Our newborn King to see

Pa rum pum pum-pum

Our finest gifts we bring

Pa rum pum pum-pum

To lay before the king

Pa rum pum pum-pum

Rum pum pum-pum

Rum pum pum-pum

So to honor Him

Pa rum pum pum-pum

When we come

I will play for you

I will play for you

On my drum

On my drum

Rum pum pum-pum

Little baby

Pa rum pum pum-pum

I am a poor boy too

Pa rum pum pum-pum

I have no gift to bring

Pa rum pum pum-pum

That's fit to give a king

Pa rum pum pum-pum

Rum pum pum-pum

Rum pum pum-pum

Shall I play for you

Pa rum pum pum-pum

On my drum

I will play for you

I will play for you

On my drum

[On my drum]

On my drum

[On my drum]

Rum pum pum-pum

Mary nodded

Pa rum pum pum-pum

The ox and lamb kept time

Pa rum pum pum-pum

I played my drum for Him

Pa rum pum pum-pum

I played my best for Him

Pa rum pum pum-pum  
Rum pum pum-pum  
Rum pum pum-pum

Then He smiled at me  
Pa rum pum pum-pum  
Me and my drum

I will play for you  
I will play for you  
I will play for you  
I will play for you  
On my drum  
[On my drum]  
On my drum  
[On my drum]  
Rum pum pum-pum  
Rum pum pum-pum  
Rum pum pum-pum  
Rum pum pum-pum  
**End of video**

**In the studio:**

**JAMES:** I always tended to weep when I heard about the "Little Drummer Boy" who played his drum. My mind would flash back to a little boy without a home. Did you know that for ten years, Betty, I lived afraid they were going to take me and put me in a foster home, actually like a children's home? And that's fine -- didn't want to go there. I remember when I brought my life to the Lord, especially when he called me to preach. It was like I said, "God, I don't know. But boy, I'm going to give it all I got." And I gave him all I had, and he took my drum, so to speak, a shy kid's voice that did have a tender heart. I had a lot of courage and boldness, too. Sometimes,

maybe overbearing; I'm sorry if it ever was.

But I'm telling you I've got such a broken heart right now for people that I just thank God that we get to put arms around them. We're in our Mission Feeding right now for little children that don't have anything to eat.

By the way, we've witnessed to little kids about the Lord where they want to play their drum for Jesus. They really do! So many of them become missionaries themselves. Many of them teachers, many of them grow up to be community leaders in Africa.

By the way, this is Christmas; it is the giving season. If you can help us with challenges here at the end of the year, a lot of you make wonderful year-end gifts, which could be quite meaningful, to help us thank God any time we could save taxes as they're ever-increasing. We just thank you so much.

Betty, I want all of our friends to listen to one of our dear friends. You know we love the Evans family so much. Tony Evans, Priscilla Shirer, Anthony, just the whole family is just so awesome. Anthony is quite a singer. I think this might be my favorite Christmas song, "O Holy Night."

**Begin video clip**

[Anthony Evans singing]

O holy night

The stars are brightly shining

It is the night

Of our dear Savior's birth

Long lay the world

In sin and error pining

'Till he appeared

And the soul felt its worth  
The thrill of joy  
The weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks  
A new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees  
Oh hear the angel voices!  
O night divine!  
O night when Christ was born  
O night divine  
O night  
O night divine  
O night divine

Truly He taught us  
To love one another  
His law is Love  
And His gospel is Peace  
Chains shall he break  
For the slave is our brother  
And in his name  
All oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy  
In grateful chorus raise we  
Let all that's within us  
Praise his Holy name!

Christ is the Lord  
Praise His name forever  
His power and glory

Forevermore proclaim!  
His power and glory forevermore proclaim

Fall on your knees  
Oh hear  
Hear the angel voices!  
O night divine!  
O night when Christ was born  
O night divine  
O night  
O night divine  
O night divine  
O night  
O night divine  
Oh! It was a holy night divine  
O night divine  
**End of video**

**In the studio:**

**BETTY:** Amen!

**JAMES:** Wow! Wow! Hoo! That night divine gives us light -- divine forever! Thank you, Lord.  
Isn't it great to share with our friends?

**BETTY:** It really is. We wish you a very merry Christmas with your loved ones; hopefully surrounded together, rejoicing in the Lord; and being grateful at how he blesses all of us, and how you continue to bless *LIFE Outreach* by joining with us. Let's go into the new year doing that together. God bless you all.

**JAMES:** I just pray you feel a holy hug from me and Betty. I wish I could look right in your

eyes and say thank you for seeing oftentimes through the eyes of Jesus what he wants us to see and then extending his hands. How about we not only spend next year doing that together, how about we spend the rest of our lives doing it and truly make a kingdom impact on God's planet?

We love you. Thank you for helping us share his love, our Lord's love, and his life. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

**Begin video clip**

[Tom Brandon playing saxophone instrumental of "Joy to the World"]