

7/14/23

Week 29: WFL

James and Betty Robison

Mission special #2

In the studio

JAMES: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I want to give you some of the most encouraging words you'll ever have. And that, Betty, is, and by the way, we've been married now for 60 years, and in love for 64. We don't plan to stop. Let me give you some encouraging words. You will never lack encouragement from the greatest encourager in the universe, and that's God. He loves you. We realize that every time we come into people's homes, we're coming into the homes of some broken hearts, broken lives, broken relationships, sadly, broken marriages, lost lives, and families. But I want you to know this, God cares more deeply than any human being can ever describe.

Betty and I love you. You say you don't know us. There might be things I'd be concerned about, disturbed about, distressed about, maybe for your sake, but I would care because that's why we're here. God has put a great big holy care in our hearts, Betty, that in many ways leads to a supernatural holy hug. We love to put God's arms around people.

But I want to tell you something. We couldn't put his arms around very many people were it not for those of you who bring the members of Christ's body, let me show you, the parts of the arm together so the hand can function properly if it is connected to the head. And God makes it very clear that the church is his body and we're his members. And we're to submit to his head, his leadership. Let me just tell you that.

People who watch us tell us that they are encouraged, they are blessed, they're inspired. They see him in others. We always say we want you to see him in them. We want people to see him in

you. That's why we're here. And we want you to see what a person in need looks like.

We have been drilling water wells now for 24 years, we'll go over 8,000 this year. We've been feeding children now for 35 years. We've been reaching out to the suffering. I've been reaching out to the unsaved, and the unredeemed now for over 60 years, and I'm not going to stop. And we're not going to stop putting God's arms around people that are overlooked.

I want you to just look at this child. Can you tell that child has a name? Well, that child has diseased water. Betty, you and I have walked all over this world and we've seen the contaminated water that kills children. And we've also seen what clean water does for a child. It saves a life, it saves a future. We've seen what a well will do for a village. I mean it is amazing. We've actually seen what putting clean water in the country does for it.

Well, Betty, we're going to ask all of our friends right now at the end of this emphasis on water this year, and we need a miracle. Call the missionaries and say, go find another area where the rigs can get that you paid for, love paid for. I want you to please reach out right now and become a person's miracle, a family's miracle, a village's miracle at whatever level you can. Watch where Betty and I have been. See if you're not moved to become the miracle you see desperately needed.

On the mission field

Open Captions

>> Over 700 million people worldwide live with unsafe water.

James: This is a journey that we go on because we want to show you reality, we want to show you how people live. We're supposed to go to a water source. I am—look at this! I'm so hot right now and thirsty but look at this water! Then there's another little hole right there just beyond, a little bit larger but it's filthy!

This is where people come to get water. It just makes me want to lay my head down and just start

crying because it is all people have.

Open Captions

>> Yes, it is terrible seeing a child that comes in with diarrhea, dehydrated and see them that way. Sometimes we can't do anything.

Announcer: This story could be repeated from thousands of locations around the world: Families suffering with diarrhea and dehydration. Tragically, for young children whose immune systems cannot ward off the effects of illnesses caused by diseased water, it can lead to an early grave.

Open Captions

>> The only water that we have to drink is really bad. We have no choice but to drink this water every day. This is how my six-year-old daughter died from diarrhea.

Announcer: There is a simple solution that would put an end to the physical and emotional hardships families are having to endure. It can be summed up in the words of the Psalmist, "Like cold water to a thirsty soul so is the good news from a far country."

James: With your help we can provide little children like this with fresh clean water. It's really pretty simple but it takes all of us doing our part, joining together, to give not only a cup of water as Jesus said but a well of water.

I pray you'll make that life-giving call today and children and their families in so many parts of the world will receive a chance at life because of the love of God shared through you.

End of clip

In the studio

JAMES: Betty, we have put our arms around millions of children now over the last years

because of our viewers. Didn't you just want to get God's arms around every child that's thirsty or hurting?

BETTY: Absolutely! I think about that. And we ask you, will you reach out and give a cup of water? I hope you understand it is more than just quenching their thirst, it is giving life into their bodies. Do you realize how important water, clean water is to your body? How many of us grab a bottle of water because we want it to be as fresh as possible? We want it to be the good, right kind of water. That's what they need. They need that fresh clean water to cleanse their bodies because their whole body functions from that water.

So I know that you care about them but let's continue to reach out. Let's give them the water that they need to grow up strong. And those mothers can watch their children run and play and not have to bury them when they're so small.

JAMES: You know Jesus said, "I'm the water of life. I am the essence of life. I am the way of life. I am the way to life. I am the source of life." How big and important does that make water? It's life! Jesus' life now, meaningful, abundant, bountifully, and eternally. But you have to have physical water to live, and contaminated water leads to all manner of diseases and sicknesses that kill lives. And we have a perfect, perfect cure.

Would you right now, would you just take a break from your day and give somebody a break, a chance at life? Would you right now just bow your head and say, God, show me what you want me to do to share life. You gave your life, you offer and give us life. Help me to share your life by sharing your love. Lead me, in Jesus' name.

Would you consider getting a bank card or write a check and make to *LIFE* because that's what you're giving? Remember this, that changes everything for the people in that whole area. It is a miracle! It is an absolute promise to be an effective miracle to give life.

Would you give \$48 to give ten people water for the rest of their life? \$144 for 30? Could you give a well? We're going to need some people, if we're going to reach our goal, we're going to

need some people to give a well, that's \$4800. Some to give toward a well, \$2400, and pray someone joins you. \$1200 and pray three others join you, we've got it all.

Would you do it right now? Go get your bank card, call that number, or go online and say here's the gift God is leading me and enabling me to give. And I know I'm giving the gift of life because of his life and his love. Please do it.

On the mission field

TAMMY: How do you fight an enemy that you can't escape? One that you're forced to rely on knowing that at any moment it can strike those you love the most? This is the story of a young mother named Vivian and others in her village.

Open Captions

>> I thought my kids were doing well, but all of a sudden, I started seeing the life go out of them. Their legs and cheeks became swollen and their hair turned gray. The dirty water made them very sick... Within a week, two of my children died.

>> The sorrow is truly almost too much to bear! But Vivian must stay strong for the sake of her remaining children. She knows that the contaminated water in their village, the only water source they have, was draining the life from her family. But she has no choice. With every bout of illness in her home Vivian's fear grows.

Open Captions

>> After the death of my children, my husband got sick as well. One of my other children just got sick yesterday with the same symptoms as the two that died.

>> The water that they're getting from this—it is so contaminated! It is filled with waterborne illness. It is literally killing people. I got to sit down and talk with a mother yesterday who has lost two children in the same week because of this very water right here. But they don't have any

other option. I'm asking you to believe with me that together we can give them fresh water every day.

End of video

JAMES: Betty, can we tell our viewers that we can in fact do that for those villages?

BETTY: Absolutely. You can be part of the difference that's made—you and everyone else that joins with us. Let's give life to these precious children, to these villages that have no fresh water. These mothers have to offer basically death to these children because that's all the water that they have. I can't imagine the heartache as she watches her children drinking that water that she knows may kill them. So please join with us and let's be a part of drilling these wells so that we can make a difference.

JAMES: You know when Betty and I watch these children as loss, and see the mothers, you don't think our mind doesn't flashback to what people say is the greatest pain a human can experience, and that is the death of a child? And you know what happens to us when we flashback? By the way, you know we lost a daughter that had three teenage children that was the greatest Christian we felt like any of us had ever known. And she was our miracle baby we were never supposed to have.

Do you know what comes to our mind even now when we think about Robin? Robin, our little girl has four grandchildren. She said to you many times in the last year, in the last days, "Do you think I'll get to see my grandchildren?" When she first got sick, she wondered if she would get to see them graduate from high school. She saw one. The others she saw from Heaven. Well, she has four little grandbabies right now she's watching from Heaven.

Do you think we don't think about that? Do you think people that lost family don't think about that? And I've said this to you and I've got to repeat it. There is not one of you watching and I do believe many of you grew to love Betty and to love me. She is easy to love. But you grew to love us because you watched us love others and you helped us.

Well, please know this, the greatest thing you can do is give a person a chance at life. Clean water gives life. And we can drill those freshwater wells. We've committed and this will be over 8,000 now to drill 350 more this year but we need a miracle now. We need some people who will drill a well, \$4800 if you can do that. Be the miracle for that village. Not just the family but a whole village. Give as much towards it as you could. Pray others match you to get the \$4800.

But remember this, there are not many people who can't do this, \$48 will give ten people water for the rest of their life. Would you right now go get your bank card or your check? Would you make a gift to *LIFE* right now? Put it on that card, use that card like a check. Whatever you can give do it.

We have some beautiful gifts to send you. We always want to bless you in your spiritual journey. But you're going to be giving somebody not only a chance at life but also eternal life because they're going to see the love of God through your gift. And it is going to save lives, likely help a whole village find life. Please make that gift.

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: *Every day thousands of lives are lost to waterborne disease, 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 is 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 your gift of any amount, we'll send you the Life Prayer Journal complete with customized art, scripture verses, and inspirational quotes from Life Today hosts and co-hosts. You'll find plenty of room to write down prayer requests, answered prayers, and your own personal

reflections as you spend time with God.

With your gift of \$100 or more, please request the Blessed cutting board, a beautiful addition to your kitchen and preparation area. This pine wood cutting board is custom engraved with the word Blessed as a reminder of the daily provision of God in your life.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide for 250 people or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And you may request our colorful bronze sculpture "Consider the Birds." Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

On the mission field

ISAK: I've just been talking to Monica and she's been explaining her story to me. The story of her life, the story of how water has impacted that life. She's got five children. But then she explained that she's lost two of those children. She lost them because of exactly where we're sitting today, where we found her, and what she's doing. She actually said this water, maybe it looks like it's clean to you, I've got to tell you it doesn't look clean to me at all. But she said, "Maybe it looks clean to you," she said, "but you don't know what's in there." And she explained how she lost two children because of waterborne disease.

The pain was so evident when she spoke about the fact that she had lost these children. That's why she cried out to God as she said angrily, "Why didn't I die first?" I can understand. I think you can understand. If we lost our children, I think we'd feel exactly the same way. Why could I not have died first?

But you know what else she said? She said that she dreams of having a water well here. Right now, what her immediate need is, is water. Monica's story broke my heart. I'm sure it's broken yours but don't leave it at that. You can't leave it there. Because then all we're left with is three broken hearts, yours, mine, and Monica's. And what Monica is left with is no future for the three

children that remain. But if you'll act today, we'll make Monica's dreams could true. If you'll give that gift to Water for LIFE, you'll be giving life for Monica, life for her children, and life for the people of this area.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: You're going to be immediately giving life to those families. You're going to be the miracle they've longed for. The miracle you would have wanted to be in my life and Betty's life. Well, you can be that miracle right now, and it will not fail. Would you get that card, that bank card, and use it like a check? Please go get it. Call the number that people call in to ask for prayer, and they will be. Far more calling in asking for prayer than saying I'm making a gift. We understand that. Love pays for that call for those who just need someone to love them and pray with them.

But would you call today to be the lifeline? Would you do that? Would you, as Jesus said, give a cup of water? If you give a cup of water, you won't miss the reward and blessing that God has through you. And I never stop and think what's coming to me. I think of what's flowing through me. It is like a river of life, Betty, that flows freely. And it could flow like a very tiny faucet were it not for you. And because we come together like the family God asked us to be, like the healthy body he wants us to be, then we can lift people out of their despair, their disease, and death, and we can give them life.

That's what we've been doing together. We've been doing it for 60 years in ministry. We've been doing it on television now for more than 55 years, and we've been drilling these water wells for nearly 25. We've been on the mission fields, basically, in so many ways full-time for nearly 35 years. I mean this is an amazing thing God's allowing us to do together. Give life, would you?

Betty, we together, we, all of us as the body of Christ is his family fulfilling his dream, fulfilling the desire of his heart, is to give you life. He gave his son to give us life, to become the water of life, love, peace, joy, compassion, flowing through us freely like a river. Would you do it right now? We just have a short time left. Boy, we need a miracle.

If you can drill a well, do it. Part of a well, do it. Remember, ten people water the rest of their life for a gift of \$48. What a miracle. You do what you can, please. It would be wonderful, Betty, if we could hear from everybody in God's body, his family, who are watching today. Thank you so much.

We have gifts to bless you with. But I remind you, you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving the gift of life. And we're pointing them to the source of eternal life, and they're going to see the love of God that made that possible. Thank you so much. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

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End of video

On the mission field

TAMMY: This is absolutely horrible to think that this is his only source of water. I've been sitting here for a while watching dogs and pigs and goats sitting in this water. I mean the smell is just—it is enough to take your breath away. And yet, I watch child after child dip their precious little cup and drink this water. It is literally killing them. But they have nothing else that they can do. This is it.

We can change this for them. We can drill them a water well that will last for generations to come and produce life in their bodies. Call the number on your screen or go online and give the best gift that you can give. It will make a difference that will bring life into the lives of these children.

End of video

In the studio

JAMES: You know, since we talk about children and how much parents love them, and our daughter Robin, and since we've told you many times that her favorite bird was the Cardinal, you've got to know that every time I see a red bird, I obviously think of Robin. But I also think of all of you who thought of us in that battle. And you've continued to pray for our comfort, for all these years since.

But I'd like you to consider "Consider the Birds" and maybe make a big gift toward a water well and just consider those birds that trust God for everything. And let's all trust him more. And let's ask God to help us love our families like birds love theirs. And brighten somebody's day with our life. Betty, that's what our viewers do.

BETTY: Absolutely!

JAMES: Every day. We sure love you. Someday we're all going to be sitting together. You join us any time we have a meeting you can attend. God bless and thank you so much for your help.