

5/24/24

Week 21: Spring Mission Feeding
Randy Robison and Tammy Trent
Mission Feeding special #2

In the studio

RANDY: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. A very special episode of *Life Today* because you're going to see some critically important things. And it's important that we, as believers, do something about it right now, today! There is a situation going on in the nation of Ethiopia. We have been working there in the eastern Africa region for many years, South Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, and then down the coast. But we have come upon some things we want to show you today because the situation is urgent. And you can do something about it.

Tammy, you were just there. What did you see?

TAMMY: Randy, I don't even know if I can answer that in a quick minute. What I saw, for me, was gut-wrenching; stuff I have never experienced seeing on any trip I've ever taken with *LIFE Outreach*. And I've taken many. This one impacted me deeply. It's embedded in my heart for many, many years to come. And it was really, really hard. I know that we will show some pieces today of some moments that we were in. But I'm hopeful. Even in this show today, I feel hope. Sorry!

RANDY: Are you all right? It's tough. You know it is tough. It would be really hard to do this, to go to places we go and see the things that we see, if we didn't know we could come right back here and show you some pictures and you would do something about it. Watch this and then we'll tell you how *we* can change this situation.

On the mission field

ISAK: So Tammy, we're coming into this village. I've actually never been to this village before. Our advance team has been here.

Open captions

>> Crisis in Ethiopia. Drought and conflict put millions in need.

ISAK: We've heard that there's over 190,000 people in this area that are chronically food insecure. There's been six years of drought here.

Open captions

>> Ethiopia starvation. Fear of famine grows.

ISAK: So families have told us they've totally run out of food. They've even eaten the seed that they had. So even if rain was to come sufficient to be able to farm, there is no way they could even plant because they've eaten their seed to try to survive.

This really is a crisis situation. It is a case of us having to respond immediately with emergency food, bringing it in, and being able to save lives, particularly of young children. It is the little children like this that are the ones that are the most vulnerable.

TAMMY: Isak, I think about that little guy right now and what his life might be like every day. We're talking about these kids starving to death because they don't have food. It rips me up because some of these things I have not heard, and I know our viewers might not have even heard some of these stories, some of the statistics, and truly, the reality of life and death.

I don't know where you're at in life today, I don't know what your circumstance might be today as you're watching this, but I can almost bet you that it might be just a little bit better than the lives of these precious people here in this village right now.

If you are in a position to give to this outreach I would respond. If God is laying it on your heart, then I would respond and do whatever you can do. I know that when we come together as God's family, I totally believe, and those aren't just words, but I believe when we come together, we can make an enormous impact. And I want to make an impact in the lives of every one of these children. Let's do it today.

End of video

In the studio

TAMMY: Randy, I watch that and I'm right back in that village. I'm right back with those children, with those families. One thing I said, is that your life might be a little bit better, when I hear that today it's like our lives are a *lot* better. Our lives are so much better than what I experienced in that village and other villages that I had the privilege of going into, and even some malnutrition clinics where I stood over that baby that was literally dying—dying before my eyes.

I could hardly take it. I remember I had to get up and I had to walk out and leave. I just lost it because I thought that there was a way that I could help this baby. There is a way we could help this child, and so many thousands of other children right now today that are in those situations, who are dying because of the lack of food. It was hard for me to be there and to see that knowing that that seemed so simple.

But was the solution simple? Is it possible that we could go in and rescue these children? That we could save these children and bring them life through food, through Mission Feeding? And the answer is yes. But it is critical. And you saw that in that piece.

They are in an emergency situation, Randy. They need help right now. They can't wait. They need it now because they're dying right now.

RANDY: Yeah. It raises the question, why us? Why should we do anything about it? You need

to understand something very important about *LIFE Outreach International*. Most of you know this but maybe you're new to this program. We do this because God has given to us.

When Jesus walked the earth, he fed people. It was a metaphor oftentimes for himself whom he called "the bread of life." If you look at the old word there, that word *bread*, it is the same word, or the same connotation oftentimes as flesh. We understand that food is life. As Christians, we go not just to give food but to give the bread of life. So the gospel is at the root of everything we do. Jesus said, "Don't forget the poor." Paul and the apostles said, "Remember the poor." So if you're a believer this is something—we're following the example of Christ by feeding the poor.

If you're not a Christian, by the way, we care very much about you. We've got a telephone number where someone would love to pray with you. If you haven't put your faith in Christ, I would invite you to do that right now. Because without spiritual nourishment we die. We're dead. We're spiritually dead. Christ didn't come to give us a bunch of new rules and make us good people. He came to give us life and life more abundantly. Out of that we go and give other people life. Both the spiritual bread of Christ and the physical bread that you put in a bowl when you partner with us on Mission Feeding.

Let me give you a quick breakdown so you understand what this looks like. A gift today of \$30 will help feed three children for the next three months. A gift of \$50 will feed five children over the next three months. \$100 will help feed ten children. A \$1,000 gift today will help feed 100 children. Some of you can do more than that.

Why do we do it? Well, because we have to give them food so literally in this case they don't die. They are on death's doorstep. We have the power to step in and intercept that. Then we continue with the program to get them in a place to better care for themselves.

And we preach the gospel. We don't force it. It is a free gift that is given to all. It is a free choice made by all. But I'm telling you, the power of Christ's example of him as spiritual food and the physical food that we need in our bodies every day, it changes the situation.

Tammy, you've seen the good side of this in places where we have Mission Feeding and the countenances change. They laugh! They learn. We really can make a difference.

TAMMY: We can. And you're right, Randy. I don't think we could do what we do and talk about it if we didn't feel hope ourselves, if we didn't know that there is a way and that there is a solution. And that we've been there ourselves. So we know we're not just talking about it, we're talking from experience.

Randy, you've seen that. You've been in the hard places as well. I know this is a hard piece to watch but take a minute and watch this.

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: *For 30 years, viewers of LIFE Today have been helping save millions of lives from malnutrition and starvation. Though you may never meet them in this life, people like Jose, Jacob, and Matthew are grateful that you chose to make Mission Feeding possible through your giving.*

But while there is cause for celebration, there are children we've still been unable to reach. Their tragedies caution us against growing complacent.

RANDY: Angelica was only five years old when they buried her here. They put a marker in the sand with her name and the dates. If you look at the inscription here you can see that it won't last that long. It will fade. Malnutrition is robbing children of their future. These children must not be forgotten. I can promise you, God knows them by name.

Will you think about those that we can still save? There are so many that are right on that edge of life and death, and we make the difference. Let's not forget them. I'm asking you to do something right now. Support the Mission Feeding outreach because that's how we stop this cycle of death because you really can make a difference. You can give these children hope and a future instead of an unmarked grave.

In the studio

RANDY: Unfortunately, in those areas, the stark truth is that we can fill a bowl or they will fill that grave. And it is hard to see that. But we can come back and look at you and say we have an opportunity. We can do something. Not only can we do something, we *must* do something.

Tammy, I know you've been to many of these places. There was one place in Angola at a clinic where I prayed for a little girl who was severely malnourished. It was heartbreaking. But what was worse was I came back the next day and found out that she had died the night before—after I had prayed. That's hard. Because I want to pray and people get up and walk away and praise God. We read that in the Bible. I want to see that happen again.

And you go, why? Why does it have to be this way? I hear God saying, I don't want it that way. It is not supposed to be that way. And you're the answer to that. You've seen things like this?

TAMMY: I have, Randy. I know, I've been in those places too where you ask those questions of God, why aren't you changing this? Why can't this be fixed just like this? But I've learned, Randy, on this trip when I saw some really hard things. I was talking to Jesus about that in the car with some of the other people that we were in the car with. I just said, "How do you talk to the Lord about this when you're trying to find those answers?"

And maybe, God is giving us an opportunity to step in these places as these people are praying for miracles. Like I get to be a miracle? Like God can use me to make a difference? So my faith grows in those situations. Even when I'm asking, even when I'm questioning God, asking God for things, I can say that he is stretching me in those moments of my faith as I watch him do miracles; and as he uses his people, God's people are being used.

So I think that's when we come together on a day like this and we're telling you about this need. I'm reaching out to you to say I need you. God's person right there. There's the army; it is coming together. We're coming together. And together, we're going to make a difference. That's where

God, to me, uses his people to form miracles that only can be done from the will of God, and by his hand. But he will use his people to make that happen.

RANDY: Yeah. And really, we're not asking a whole lot. We're asking for \$30, \$50, and \$100 to feed three, five, or ten children for the three months. It is only that economical because we have the people in place, and we have the systems in place. We can do this.

I would also ask for people's prayers. "Where your treasure is, your heart is also." So yeah, if you join us financially in making a difference. But I want people to pray! And not just that we get food to everybody. Yes, pray that. But also that we share the gospel. That people see, why did these Christians come from so far? And we're able to tell them and say, there are so many other people that aren't here right now. But they're here. They're here in their prayers and their finances. They put the food in the bowls.

Will you be one of those people today? And then don't stop there. Continue to pray. Pray for all the people in all the areas that we're reaching. Go to the phone or go online right now. Make the best gift you can.

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Right now across the continent of Africa, children are suffering facing severe malnutrition and even death. Severe drought and famine, including in crisis areas like Ethiopia, means we must replenish food supplies immediately to keep feeding 350,000 children and help reach more people in desperate need.

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 lifesaving 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 *The Blessing of Taking Communion*. In this book, discover how the sacred ordinance of communion helps to feed your soul and reminds you of the transformative

power of receiving the Lord's Supper.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the LIFE Legacy Journal. This beautiful journal and pen will help you write your personal story and share the experiences that made you who you are. One day, the generations that follow will be able to look back and learn from the legacy you've left behind.

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, "A Cup of Water." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video

On the mission field

TAMMY: So I've spent the week in Africa listening to countless stories of desperation and great pain. My name is Tammy.

[Translator repeats]

TAMMY: What is your name?

[Translator repeats]

Open captions

>> Baritoo.

TAMMY: And what is the name of your baby?

Open captions

>> Safara. She is five years old.

TAMMY: I know you have very little food. I'm wondering if you could help me understand what it is that you're able to eat.

Open captions

>> I gather some wild leaves to eat. Sometimes I earn enough money to buy a little sorghum. I try to find food anywhere I can.

TAMMY: I can see—I can see that your daughter is struggling. I can see that she is—it's hard to say that word, hard to say, "wasting away." It's hard to say that but it is true. And it's because she is malnourished, and it is because she has no food. I can't even imagine the pain that you must carry with you as a mother. I'm so sorry! My heart breaks.

I've been given the privilege to come here and spend time with these amazing people that work harder than anybody I know, and struggle more than anybody I've seen. They are just asking for a little help. Would you help today? Would you help save a life?

End of video

In the studio

TAMMY: I watched so many children on this trip that looked like they were wasting away. They were dying. So many families were desperate for food. They were desperate for a way out of this situation that they are in. Many of them have been in a drought for six to eight years and they've lost everything. They've done everything right but they've lost everything.

I would sit before them in these villages and listen to them and hold them and hug them and pray with them and cry with them and hope with them that tomorrow would be a different day and would be a different story to tell. They would tell me what they needed. They weren't asking for a lot or a big handout, just asking for a fighting chance.

I left there thinking, God, what could I do to help these people? Not down the road but today? Because this is a crisis. They're in dire need of food right now. They're out. They have nothing.

I promised that I'd get on a plane and come home and I would tell you about everything I saw and everything I experienced; and how real it was and how heartbreaking it was. That I would ask you if you would please consider helping us today. Not tomorrow but today. If you've helped before I'm going to ask you to help again.

This is critical. The need is now and it is an emergency. Their lives are at stake. Would you consider doing that today with us? Saving a life! Not just one but many today!

Begin video clip

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online today.

End of video

On the mission field

ISAK: We've come into this village because we've heard of how bad this situation is here. The only thing that they're eating here is this wild, sort of berry-like fruit that they're getting off of the tree. And then the only other thing is that they're actually taking these worms, drying them, and then they're eating these worms. That's all they have to eat.

I was just talking to the people. This lady responded the moment I stopped and she started speaking.

Open captions

>> We hope you will come back and help us. We don't have any crops. If you don't come back, we will die.

ISAK: That was the cry of her heart. Help me to honor my promise to this mother that says yes, we will return. We will help you. We will save your lives.

It's good to see you again!

ANNOUNCER: The mission team was able to fulfill their promise and return to the same village with emergency food supplies because of the support from the friends of *LIFE Outreach International*.

ISAK: I know you remember me because we were here maybe just three weeks ago.

[Translating]

ISAK: And I made you a promise that we were going to go away and we were going to see what

we could do to be able to come back and help your community because there was no food here because of the drought. And so I'm excited to be able to say the truck is here, the food is here, we are fulfilling our promise. But not just today, we will continue to assist your community as much as we can going forward. But for today, we will do the first distribution. God bless!

ANNOUNCER: There are many more villages just like this one. The record drought has left countless children and their families without enough food and at risk of extreme malnutrition. Join the friends of *LIFE* and be the answer to the cry of those in great need.

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. Proverbs 22:9
NIV

End of video

In the studio

RANDY: As you see these pictures, I want you to understand that what we're seeing now, especially in Ethiopia, we've seen before. The classic signs of malnutrition are thinning hair, sometimes turning red, and flaky skin. The very obvious physical signs so many times. Oftentimes, there are the pictures of the mothers who work so hard. Or the mothers walking miles and miles for water or for someplace that's got some food.

But this is the smile of a child who is in the feeding program right now; a child who is healthy, who is learning, who is able to laugh and to play. And Tammy, I want to see so many smiles. There are so many that need it desperately. It works. We know we can do it when people will join us.

TAMMY: Yes! It is possible. Hope is possible. When we come together, we can save the lives of so many children. And it starts today. Go online. Make a call. Give the best gift you possibly can give today. Let's change the lives of so many children right now today.

Thank you so much for watching. We'll see you next time on *Life Today*.