

8/2/24

Week 31: WFL

Mission special #2

Randy Robison and Tammy Trent

In the studio

RANDY: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Randy Robison. Tammy Trent is with me.

TAMMY: Hello!

RANDY: We love to minister to you right here by encouraging you, bringing you guests that will lift your spirits, and teach you some things. But we also want you to be a blessing to someone else. There is a situation right now where God's people need to intervene.

Tammy, I love the whole theme of scripture. A lot of people think Christ came to make bad people good when the truth is that he came to make dead people alive spiritually. That's what we get to share. Well, there is a situation where death is reigning but you can bring them life. I hope you will take the time to watch today and maybe say a quick prayer. Say, Lord, how can I be a blessing? Because Tammy, you know that our Water for LIFE outreach changes people's lives. It brings them life in a place where death reigns.

TAMMY: Yes, Randy. We've been there. We've seen it. We've gone in where it is just heavy. There is despair. There is suffering. They're without. We've also been in those same places where we've gone back years later and we've seen them now flourishing because they have fresh clean water. We know that it changes lives. We know that water changes lives. And we all get to be a part of that today.

Don't go anywhere. This is going to be a special day that if you've heard it before, we want to tell you in a different way what this beautiful need is right now that we get to be a part of. We get to be a blessing to so many.

RANDY: We do! And we know it works because my parents started doing this many, many years ago. It's been 25 years now since Water for LIFE has been a part of the outreach of *LIFE Outreach International*, thanks to people just like you. We need to stay committed. Why? Because there are more people who are in desperate need, and more people who are facing loss. Which means more opportunities for you to be a blessing in their lives today. Watch this and you'll see a little bit where death is reigning but I also want you to see the opportunity for you to be life.

On the mission field

JOHN: So I'm here in Liberia. We're here speaking to these families about the loss that they are suffering because of the lack of clean drinking water. Many families have suffered from cholera and other waterborne illnesses.

I'm in the home of a young woman named Blessing today. Blessing's here with her brand-new baby. So, Blessing, I know that you lost a child. Tell me your baby's name that you lost.

Open captions

>> His name was Morris.

JOHN: Do you know why he died?

Open captions

>> During the dry season, our water source gets very low. We try to scoop out the water that looks the cleanest. I gave this water to my son to drink. And that's when he started to get sick. The water makes him vomit and have diarrhea.

JOHN: Now that you have this new baby, Cyrus, how do you give him water? What are you doing now?

Open captions

>> Right now, I don't know what to do. This is the only water we have to drink. I can only trust God to provide us clean water someday.

JOHN: We know you need clean water but if you could talk to my friends back home, what would you say to them to help prevent Cyrus from ever having to drink that very water again?

Open captions

>> I'd ask them to pray for us and tell them we need help right now. We need their help so that Cyrus and the other children in this village won't die.

JOHN: Can we please make her generation the last generation that ever has to suffer from the lack of clean water? We will be able to bring Water for LIFE to Blessing's village and villages just like Blessing's all over the world because you have a dream, you have a prayer. It just simply takes us being like Jesus and being willing to make a sacrifice to be a blessing.

End of video

In the studio

TAMMY: Unclean water. It is one of the leading causes of sickness in children all around the world, especially under the age of five. I try to hold it together every time we do a special like this because I feel so overwhelmed when I sit there, and probably you do too, and we hear another story—yet another story of a mother who has lost a child because of unclean water. They were without so they went to a waterhole that looked the cleanest because they thought that would be better.

Do you know what the truth is? It doesn't matter how clean that water looks, it's all contaminated. It's filled with bacteria. It is filled with disease. It will only bring death, especially

to these little, tiny babies, these children that need clean water. They need our help. Do you know what? We ask what do you need? She says, "Prayer. Somebody pray for me. I don't know what else to do, but please pray for me. And then pray that help would come." So what can we do today? We can step in and pray in the name of Jesus.

Father, Father, please send them relief. Send them help. How can we be a part of that today, Father? Lay it on our hearts. What can we do? How can we stand in the gap for these families, for these precious children today? God, give us wisdom. Speak to us. Where is the need? How do we respond?

And then respond if he is speaking to you today. Respond! Don't wait, don't hesitate, because these people don't have tomorrow. They don't have any other option. This is all they have today. But we can help change their tomorrow right now when we come together and give whatever we can. This person gives a little. That person gives a little. This person has got a little bit more. But we bring it all together and we go in there. Let's not bring them just one cup or two cups. Let's bring them an entire well. Let's drill them a well that can change their future forever. Let's help set them up for success, Randy.

RANDY: Absolutely, Tammy! You know, you sometimes watch that and you wonder, how can such a circumstance be? Did you notice, by the way, the flag that looked a little like an American flag?

TAMMY: I did! I did.

RANDY: That is because that is in the nation of Liberia, one of the 20 nations in which we're drilling water wells. But these people are facing situations where they have two choices, no water or bad water. And no water leads to death, and oftentimes, bad water leads to death.

That's why for these many years, people like you have been partnering with us and our people in the field to drill, our goal this year, 350 wells in 20 nations. There is only one way that happens and that's when you join us. When you become a part of Water for LIFE. A gift of \$48 to give

water to ten people. \$144 to give clean water to 30 people. Maybe even drill an entire well for \$4800.

Listen, this is the moment. This is when we shine the love and light of Christ into a dark place where people are hurting. Will you join us? Watch this.

On the mission field

RANDY: When we come into a place like this our first reaction as a television crew is to say, "Don't drink that!" But they drank it yesterday. They're going to drink it tomorrow. They'll drink it for the rest of their lives if they have no other choice.

It is contaminated. There are bacteria in there you can't even see. There are creatures that we can see. Moss, oily kind of look, and this water is death. There is no other way to say it. This water is death. We know that because we've talked to so many mothers who have lost children.

I want you to hear the story of Piscozi. One mother who has faced so much difficulty. Keep in mind it represents stories of many mothers across the world who face a similar situation. It means much for you to share your story with me today.

Open captions

>> I've been through really difficult times. My child became very sick, and I rushed him to the hospital. They gave him pills, but he became worse. His tummy became very swollen, and he was vomiting and had diarrhea. Even his hair turned yellow. When we got back home, he got even worse until he died.

RANDY: My heart is broken, like I know yours is when you hear Piscozi's story. But I have to tell you that this isn't an isolated story. There are so many mothers who are hurting, and who are concerned for their children. We have a solution. The question is, what will we do?

In the studio

RANDY: If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace! Be warm and be filled." And yet, you do not give them what is necessary for their body; what use is that? These are the words of James in scripture. Even so, faith, he says, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone well may say, "You have faith, and I have works. Show me your faith without the works. I will show you my faith by my works."

Listen. What we do says who we are. If we are Christ's, we will act like it. When we see somebody who is in need, someone who is dying because they don't have clean drinking water, we can't pass right by. We must not. The outreach of Water for LIFE is more than just giving clean drinking water to those in need. That's where it starts.

It's also giving the water of life. That is sharing the life of Christ with those in need. These are not two separate things. This is together. This is the faith and the works both working in the same direction. We want you to be a part of that because we know that many of you are a part of the faith community. You are followers of Christ. Let's not just talk about it; let's do it. Because Tammy, we know when we go in and we meet the practical, physical need it is a spiritual act of worship.

TAMMY: Yes, it is.

RANDY: We have to, we must, we're compelled, that's who we are.

TAMMY: Yes, it is. I love that you said that. What we do says who we are. I think there's power in those words, Randy, especially as Christ's followers. We're called to step up. We're called to do more. And it is a responsibility. I think as long as I'm here with this incredible family, the Robisons, this incredible ministry, *LIFE Outreach*, I want to be a part of giving life, changing lives, encouraging, inspiring you, and encouraging you in your walk with Jesus. What an incredible privilege that God has given me to grow my faith, to grow my trust in him, and to help you along the way.

And then to help these people beyond my reach, even here. But to go to all these different places that I'm sent in the name of Jesus and to stand before them in their struggle with them crying with them, praying with them, hurting with them, and hoping with them. Hoping and believing that change will come. It has to come.

We've been presented the stories, the stories of life and stories of death. It's been presented to us today. What are we going to do with it? We have an opportunity to help these people and to help change their lives with the gifts that God has given us. What gift has God given you today? What do you have today that you can give? I know that together we have so much that we can give in this moment right now that can change everything for these people.

Randy, that's the beauty of when we come together as God's community, as his people. We connect together and we change people's lives.

RANDY: We do. You said three words that you said that I want to point out right there. You said responsibility. And yes, I do believe there is a responsibility to be obedient to God's Word. You also said privilege. Why is it a privilege? Because we represent Christ to people. And then you said opportunity. And you wonder sometimes why there is so much suffering in the world. Why is there pain?

And I do think opportunity is the right word. You can go online right now, you can make a gift. You can pick up the phone if you prefer that. You can make a gift of \$48. That will give clean drinking water to ten people for a lifetime. Maybe you can give \$144 to give clean drinking water to 30 people. Maybe you can give a well. \$4800 is the average cost of a well. Some of you might be able to give more than that. This is the opportunity to reach out and say yes, because of my faith I'm doing the work. Let's do it. Do what you can and do it now.

Video begins

ANNOUNCER: Every day thousands of lives are lost to a waterborne disease, and nearly half of those are children under the age of five. Through Mission: Water for LIFE, now in its 25th year,

you could 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. And \$144 will help provide life-giving water for 30 people for a lifetime.

With a gift of any amount, we'll send you the "God's Word for My Day" devotional set. These four seasonal devotionals each contain a daily reading, an encouraging verse, and a thought to ponder for each day of the year.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the "His Word is Life" tumbler set. These two 20-ounce stainless steel tumblers, each inscribed with a scripture, will inspire you throughout the day and help keep your drinks well-insulated while at home or on the go.

Finally, please consider a gift of \$1200 to help provide water for 250 people. Or a gift of \$4800 to help sponsor a complete well. And request our beautiful bronze sculpture, "A Cup of Water."

Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

On the mission field

>> So life isn't easy in this area. Talking about water here is a serious issue—very serious because people are dying and getting sick from drinking bad water in this area.

So these people are really suffering. They need help. You can walk around, you're not going to find any clean water here. Now you can imagine how they are surviving. We know that water is

life.

Open captions

>> If we would have had clean water in our area two years ago my kids would still be here.

TAMMY: The water is filthy. It is dirty. It is contaminated, filled with disease but it is all they have, all they know.

So imagine yourself being so thirsty that you drink this water and it is your only option. And in the back of your mind you have that fear that you could possibly die from this water.

Open captions

>> I'm always fearing the death of my kids but I know that this is where I live. There is no other place to go, so I know I have to remain here and stand firm.

>> If you do something for this community, I think they would be grateful forever. So thank you so much for coming. I hope God is going to use you.

TAMMY: Yes! I hope so too!

>> To bless this community with clean water.

Open captions

>> I go to my knees and pray to God asking him to help my remaining children, to protect them, because I have no other choice but this water.

End of video

In the studio

TAMMY: Water is life. That's what he said, "Water is life." Jesus said the same thing—life, water, clean water. Did you know there are nearly 800 million people around the world who

don't have access to life, to clean water? Can you imagine living in that kind of fear every day? Oh, there is plenty of things that I worry about that I feel overwhelmed about, that I'm concerned about but water has never been one of those things.

As I sat there and watched that piece, I remember being in Burundi. I remember being at the edge of that water with a little boy drinking that filthy dirty water. I just, my head went down and I thought, I hate this for him. I hate that he has to drink this because I know it isn't good. I know there is no life at all in those rivers and those streams and those creeks. There is no life at all and yet it is all that they have.

So what can I do? What can I do today to help one child and then another and another, and an entire village? Well, I know what we've been doing for many years, and I know what we can do to help that village and many more. We can go in, we can pull in there with our rig and we can drill a well that will go so deep that it will bring up the fresh spring waters of life, where these people will begin to live and they will begin to thrive. It will change everything. It will break the cycle of death in their life because of the water they have. They've been born in these areas, there is nothing they can do so let's do something for them. They have done all that they can. They need our help. They need just a little help. So let's do something for them.

Today, we can come together and drill them a well. So if you have \$48, it will provide water right now for ten people. If you've got \$144, it will help us provide water for 30 right now. If you are blessed with \$4800 just sitting around someplace asking God what to do with it, we can take that and we can go in and we can drill them a well that will change their lives for the rest of their lives.

I don't know about you but I'm all about it, I can give one gift that can change the lives of thousands of people for the next 70 years of their life. Bring them life? Tell me where I sign up. I want to be a part of that. We want you to come alongside us and be a part of that with us. We have a dream, we have a vision. We are filled with hope and great expectation. And we know that together, Randy, we can make this happen today.

RANDY: Yeah. This is where our faith and our works meet. Listen. Some of you have partnered with us over the years. We thank you. Some of you may not be able to today but soon you will. Would you do one thing? Because I believe in the power of prayer, would you pray with me right now?

Lord, reach out to all those who are hurting because of contaminated water, the mothers in the villages who have lost a child, the fathers who have lost a child, and those who have lost siblings. God, would you just bring all of us together under your banner, under your authority, and in Jesus' name to reach out and provide that basic physical need to be obedient to your word in the book of James and demonstrate our love for you, our commitment to you, and our love for others by meeting their needs.

Continue to pray. Please! And those of you that can act, act right now.

Video begins

ANNOUNCER: Every day thousands of lives are lost to a waterborne disease, and nearly half of those are children under the age of five. Through Mission: Water for LIFE, now in its 25th year, you could 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.

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End of video

On the mission field

James: I am by a water source that is so typical of water sources all over the world. We know for a fact in this area disease is killing entire families—and many children. Why? From drinking contaminated water.

You know it is one thing to say "I'm sorry" and to weep over it but you know when we can be the answer to the need and the prayer, doesn't it seem sometimes just a little bit hypocritical if we could do something and we don't? Well, we can but we need your help.

ANNOUNCER: For over two decades, the viewers of *Life Today* have partnered with missionaries around the world to help save children's lives by providing clean drinking water.

Mission Water for LIFE has drilled over 8,000 clean water wells with an assortment of rigs in different shapes and sizes to meet the needs of a particular area. Each new water well is encased to prevent contamination and capped with a simple pump that even a child can operate.

LIFE Outreach and its partners have already helped provide clean water to approximately eight million people, but we still have a big job to do. Around the world, hundreds of millions of people still don't have access to safe drinking water. And hundreds of children die every day from a preventable disease caused by contaminated water.

James: Jesus said, "Give a cup of water in my name, you won't lose your reward." I don't know what that reward will be for us, that's in God's hand but I know what reward is in it for the people

we give water to. The reward is a chance, it's hope, it's a future—the reward is life.

End of clip

In the studio

RANDY: You know, when you go online or go to the phone and make the best gift you can, you not only give them Water for LIFE, you give them the water of life.

Tammy, do you know that through the outreaches of LIFE, last year, through 2023, nearly 1.3 million people have given their life to Christ? That's reports from the field by our various missionary partners. This is the crossroads of faith and works. So I want everybody to join us.

TAMMY: Come alongside us. Let's do it together. Let's make a difference. Let's impact the lives of so many people all around the world who need clean water right now. God bless you! We'll see you next time on *Life Today!*