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Week 34: WFL

Randy Robison and Tammy Trent

Terrell and Brandy Scott

In the studio

RANDY: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Randy, this is Tammy. We're excited. We've got some wonderful guests. Terrell and Brandy Scott are with us. They are the pastors out at Passion Life Church southeast of Atlanta. But they have such a story! And Tammy, I just love what God has done in their lives.

TAMMY: I absolutely do. You know I do. I had a chance to talk to them before and it is just incredible to see what God does with a surrendered life. But it is such an unbelievable story of how these two came together.

So welcome to *LIFE Today*. That's where I want to start. You have to start, to me, from the beginning and we'll lead up to how in the world you two ended up married. Tell us that story.

TERRELL: Yeah, I'll be honest. I started compromising, opening doors in middle school and it would progress. I would cycle. I started all four years on varsity football. My freshman year I got hurt. And every time I would get hurt or something would happen, I would cycle deeper into the streets. And then also—

RANDY: Meaning drugs?

TERRELL: Drugs, running drugs at a major level. So it started small and then it

progressed through high school into college.

RANDY: Where were your parents in this?

TERRELL: You know, some of it we were hiding, some of it they were aware. I really was addicted. I was using drugs but I was addicted to the money. I was addicted to the fast life. I was addicted to the control. In the '90s, there was a crack-up going on, and just the amount of money we could make in a week, in a month. So we capitalized on the reality, \$10,000, \$20,000 like that. And then I never thought that I would get caught in it, but it progressed fast and to a point where I really, when I lost my full scholarship, I dove all in. I caught a 20-year sentence and a half-million-dollar fine. I go from the college campus, wrestling on a full scholarship to the school of hard knocks.

While I'm in prison I don't get better. I don't repent. I don't cry out to God. I get much worse. I'm in prison running a gang, running drugs. Long story short, I become the biggest drug dealer in the Georgia State Prison. I bounced to seven different prisons. At the sixth prison, a guy tried to rob me for drugs. We get in a fight. I get stabbed over my left eye and right cheek. I get locked down in isolation. While in isolation, I cry out to God but I'm calloused, I'm cold.

The investigator comes to question me again because we have started a racketeering ring where I'm running drugs outside and inside. When he comes and questions me the next time, I have another time I cry out to God. I'm sort of in this place where I'm starting to seek God some but I'm very cold and calloused. I wasn't willing to let go of the lifestyle I was living. And so with that, I cried out to God, and I said, God, send me someone to walk the rest of my prison sentence with me. This was not pure because I'm breaching security, bringing drugs in to the back gate through the visitation; also bringing drugs in through officers and all those things.

So with that, I prayed that prayer, and a woman wrote me that I had been robbed at gunpoint sharing the gospel, sharing about Jesus, and that really started a process in me.

So from there, I get shipped to my seventh prison. When I go to the seventh prison, the same woman I had robbed at gunpoint gets a ministry visit, comes looks me in the face, and says, "Hey, I hated your guts for what you did to me but I met Jesus. And through his forgiveness, I've extended forgiveness to you. I want you to meet the same Jesus that I've met."

RANDY: So Brandy, where did you first meet Terrell?

BRANDY: So I've known Terrell since we were little, sixth grade. I knew him in sixth grade. And I liked him even in the sixth grade. But my senior year my mom passed away, and I used to party and drink a little bit, and drug a little bit before that, but once my mom passed away, I did things I said I would never do. It was just a horrible time in my life after my mom passed away.

And then that's when Terrell and I had the bad drug deal that took place between the two of us. And I really hated him for that.

TAMMY: So you—so you were the girl he held up at gunpoint?

BRANDY: Yes!

TAMMY: Terrell, what were you thinking? Why did you do that?

TERRELL: So at that time I was in college but I had also pulled off a string of armed robberies. We were setting up drug dealers in the Carolinas and Atlanta. She was a connection. We used to party. We were living loose and wild. I would come home from college. We'd party together. I told her, I called and said, hey, set up for x amount of drugs. And I sent two guys that were part of my gang in to have her and the drug dealer robbed at gunpoint.

RANDY: While you're getting thrown in prison for all your activities, something is going

on with you. Where was the change in you?

BRANDY: So after that drug deal, I'm telling you, I was—my mom's dead, my best friend just turned his back on me, I was suicidal. I was scared that these drug dealers were going to come and kill me. But at the same token, I wanted to be dead. I felt so hopeless and so helpless and so lost and desperate but let me tell you, I met a man that loved the Lord and he invited me to go to church. And at first, when I told the man, sure, I'll go to church. I'm kicking myself. Like why did you just say that? The last place I wanted to be was in church. I didn't know Jesus. But when I said yes, I'll go to church, and I walked into that church, do you know the spirit of the living God, I met with him. He captivated me in such a way that I began to weep at all the sins that I had committed and all the pain and all the stuff.

I fell in love with Jesus, the true God of the Bible. So I'm reading—as I'm reading the Bible I come to forgiveness. Well, I had never heard of such. And I really thought it was a joke when I first read it. So, God, you're telling me unless I forgive this man that could have had me killed, I won't receive the forgiveness of God? I didn't know how to do that. But I got on my knees and I asked the Lord, please change my heart. Help me forgive this man. And he truly did. He truly changed my heart to forgive the man that could have had me killed.

And then, a few years after that prayer I found out he went to prison for trafficking drugs and I began to cry out for his soul. Lord, don't let him die! Because keep in mind, we've opened up, I've known him since sixth grade. So I knew him before the sin, and before the street life, before all the junk ravaged our relationship. I knew if he would be presented with the same gospel that changed me, he would have to receive it.

The true gospel of Jesus is too sweet to reject. When you've been broken and bound, when you experience his love, it is like nothing else; right?

TAMMY: Life-changing, life transformative. Wow! So the excitement that was on your

life and just your renewed found faith, your salvation in Jesus, I can only imagine as you began to pray for him, God save his soul, that God then gave you this opportunity to connect with him in prison and show up and pray for him and his salvation.

BRANDY: And to look him in the face and say, you know what? I hated you for what you did. But this Jesus has changed me and saved me and he wants to use your life.

RANDY: What did you think when she shows up? Well, she started writing you first, right?

TERRELL: We wrote. And then I went to a new prison. At the seventh prison I was at, she came as a minister to visit. On the second visit, she sat across eye-to-eye like this, and at the end of the visitation, she looked at me and spoke a word that rocked me to the core. She said, "You're not called to be a crime boss but God has a purpose and plan for you. You've been leading people the wrong way your whole life. Now it is time to lead them right." And when she spoke those words, this old criminal's heart, this hardened heart felt like the Spirit of God just lanced me open. I remember a tear running down the side of my face and hitting my boot. She said—the catch "the crime boss" is on my back. I have a gangster for a G and over the top, a crown with CB in it.

She knew nothing about me. She knew I was living wrong but she didn't know details of who I was at that time. When she spoke that word, I knew it was God speaking to me and I had a decision to make. And so from that point in our visitation where God touched me, that week I went back and I got in my Bible, in my dorm. Everything she said I read. I didn't know the Bible. I've been walking with the Lord 18 years now, I pastor. I didn't know the Bible then. So everything she spoke to me I read. When I finally came to a point, God, I'll serve you the rest of my life. I surrendered my life that following week to Jesus Christ. The best decision I've ever made in my life.

RANDY: Was it all rainbows and roses at that point? It had to be hard extracting yourself from that life.

TERRELL: Well, I had—I had made street codes, I'd recruited people, I was running drugs in prison, and in other prisons. I had hit men. There was a lot going on. I had to draw some boundaries. I went and talked to the guys in the gang in the streets and I said, "Look, I'm going to serve the Lord." And actually, what happened miraculously, now this wasn't all easy. This is through tears. This is on my face. This is crying out. This is making deep-level commitments to God, breaking the vows I made to the streets and the gang. I got gang tats all—but by doing that, the Lord intervened in those men's lives. It is not all of them but some of them got saved while I was in prison. So even now, we in the streets say, see people saved that used to run with me 20 years ago.

BRANDY: And the guards. Like he made an impact on the guards' lives. They'd seen the transformation. Like is this the same man that used to—

RANDY: No, it is not the same man.

TERRELL: Amen! Yes, sir!

RANDY: Okay. This isn't the end of that story. I mean it is the beginning. Right?

TERRELL: Sure. Sure!

RANDY: You're sitting here together today and I know from our previous conversation, you have five kids now.

TERRELL: Yes, sir!

RANDY: So how did this go from outreach to a guy in prison to husband and wife?

TERRELL: We both just started praying. God had already spoken but I didn't have the unction or the understanding of God's voice when I was in isolation. But when she came,

we just started building our relationship on the Word of God. We started having a conversation and we asked God, are we called to be together? God spoke to us clearly through His Word, to each other, and that we were called to be together and be in full-time ministry.

BRANDY: When I came to the Lord, I quit messing around with men and I wanted a man of God. I was saving myself for a man of God. So when I went into that prison, it was to minister the gospel and look him in the face and extend that forgiveness. But when I drove away from our first visit, it was like some stuff was moving in my heart. In maybe, six months or so, I knew that the Lord spoke to my heart that this is your—this will be your husband. Just so grateful because just what the Lord has done in our life and the way he's used our testimony of such restoration. I'm telling you, the way this man loves me and our children, and the community, I'm so thankful. Even to share it again, even though it's been so many years, it is so fresh.

RANDY: Here's my question. What was the new reality that God gave to both of you about yourselves, and then about each other, and then about your purpose in life?

TERRELL: Yeah, so some of the beginning scriptures God gave me after I repented, Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," saith the Lord, "plans of good and not of evil." One Corinthians 2:9, "No eye has seen nor ear has heard or entered into the heart of man what God has in store for those that love him." Even while I was in prison, while we were building our relationship, God started to speak to me about the nations and the promise to preach all over the world. And God started doing a deep inner work in me that was supernatural. Even I told God, God, I don't want to get out of here until I'm right. I'm tired of hurting people. I wept over the things that I did. And even when I got home, one of the first things I did was go back and let people know I was sorry and make amends and repay people.

But understanding my need for the Lord, my need for purpose—and we build our relationship on the Word of God. It wasn't physical. Thank God, we needed time. We

were both—I was un-whole. I don't know about her. She had been walking with the Lord. But I needed to grow in grace and get in God's Word. And so we built our relationship on the Word of God, fasting, prayer, and we used our time wisely. When she came and seen me at the prison, we were in there in the Word and everybody knew. All the guys that used to be—everybody knew. So we were just very bold about our faith, with the guards, with the warden, even supernaturally. The warden called me into his office after I got saved, "What happened to you?" Because man, I was pegged the guy that—so I was able to share my faith with him. And instead of doing all of that time, I was released in five years.

TAMMY: I was just going to ask you, how long were you in prison? Five years?

TERRELL: I did five years.

TAMMY: How long have you been out now?

TERRELL: I've been out now, well, we're almost on 17 years. I've been walking with the Lord for over 18 years. We've been married, we're fixing to be 16 years now. So 16 and a half years. We started our church in 2013. But I have great men and women of God, that's something she did very well. We were planted under people. I submitted to leaders. And we had great men and women of God who mentored us while I was in prison and then when I got home.

RANDY: Last question for you. Brandy, if there is maybe a mother or just someone who has a loved one, someone they care about, a relative who is maybe running on the streets, maybe in jail, definitely not walking with the Lord, what would you say to that person to encourage them to keep praying and to hold on to hope?

BRANDY: I would just encourage them that if there is still breath left in their lungs, there is hope, just to be encouraged and to hold on to the promises that the Lord has given them. And not to lose—not to lose hope. The Word of God tells us that hope deferred

makes the heart sick. So I would speak to those women just to hope again, to believe again, and to trust God in His Word and what he has spoken in regard to that.

RANDY: You know if you're one of those, you've got someone you're praying for, someone that just seems like a lost cause, pick up the phone, there is someone who will encourage you, someone who will pray with you, someone who will lift your loved one to the Lord. Maybe you're that person. You want to call about yourself. You just feel like I have made so many mistakes. God can't forgive me. I am hopeless. I have no purpose. Were you watching? God can turn things around like that! Now there will be a walking out. You may need to make amends. You may need to make some changes but that's okay. God will walk with you every step of the way. It may start by you picking up the phone right now and calling someone who will just listen and pray with you and encourage you. So if you want to speak with someone, do that today.

Tammy, there is another opportunity we have to kind of go beyond ourselves, to look out and see someone else who is in need, someone who needs some help. We have a great opportunity to do something.

TAMMY: We do. God has given us so many great opportunities, Randy, shows like this help bring hope and encouragement. But there are also people around the world who need a lot of hope and a lot of encouragement right now. We get to be a part of that. We can't wait another moment. Because of that, I want you to take a second and watch this with us right now.

On the mission field

ANNOUNCER: Right now, people around the world are suffering the effects of a deadly poison. And there is little they can do to avoid it.

Open captions

>> My name is Beatrice, and I am from Glalay, New Town. I have been very sick with

diarrhea and lost a lot of blood. My grandsons all have a problem with the drinking water. One of them was so severe, we took him to the hospital. The doctor said our drinking water was the source of our problems. I knew that sometimes his face could be puffed up.

ANNOUNCER: The deadly poison of unsafe water takes a toll on every victim it touches. In the most tragic cases, the poison takes that which cannot be given back.

Open captions

>> We lost our mother because of unclean water. She died with a swollen stomach. Since my mom's death, we've had such tragedy in our family. Our life is not good. Even my siblings are getting diarrhea from drinking the unclean water.

BETTY: As I'm here with this little child, as precious as he is, he is probably between two and three years old, maybe four, but you know he may not make it past five, four, or five if he doesn't have the water he needs. He has water but it is contaminated. And so many more people like him all around the world, they need our help. Children like this, we want to see them grow up and have a chance in life. Let God touch your heart and let's help these precious children.

End of video

In the studio

TAMMY: We talk a lot about the children and how vital it is to reach them, precious little bodies can't process this kind of dirty, unclean, contaminated water. And in a story like that, it just is like the wind is knocked out of me when I see this precious little family of children talking about losing their mother. This deadly contaminated poisonous water is affecting the entire family. Not only are they losing children in these villages but they're losing their parents also. I just can't imagine what that must feel like to have to live especially without your mother. My mom means so much to me and I just can't imagine the pain that that must bring these little children.

So when I sit here today to share my heart with you, and together we're watching the story, I just think, God, what can I do? What can we do as your people, as people of God? What can we do to help bring hope when we see a need in front of us? There is a need right now in front of us today and it is urgent for these children and for their parents and for hundreds of thousands just like them. Today is the day to take action, to bring change, to be the hope for these families and these children so that they can thrive and live and survive and flourish.

Randy, I love being a part of that. We know that there is a solution. We couldn't sit here and watch story after story like this every day and not find some kind of settle in our soul if we didn't know there was a way to help these people.

RANDY: Absolutely. It is tragic. You see whole families being devastated as Tammy pointed out. Because every time any of them takes a drink of water they're gambling with their lives. Some of them, they try to filter it. They are doing all that they can. That's the bottom line. You need to know that. These people are doing all they can to not die from the water. But it's not going to—it just doesn't work. But you and I can stop that cycle.

Here's my question for you. Are you doing all that you can to stop the death? Are we? That's what we ask here. Are we doing all we can? 350 wells across 20 nations sounds like a lot but when you're that child who has lost your mother, it is not enough. So I want us to do all that we can to stop the death cycle. \$4800 is the average cost; that will drill one well. Listen, if you can drill one well today, maybe two, maybe three, do it! You will be giving water with each well to an average of 1,000 people. If you can't drill a whole well, I completely understand. That's why you can come together with others and give \$144 for 30 people, and \$48 for 10 people.

This is the last week we'll be talking about this on the air, but the campaign will continue. It only works when we come together. Tammy, you and I, the viewers, the missionaries in the field, we have to come together and stop the death. Will you do your part? Will you go online, go to the phone, and make the best gift you can? We can do

more. We can save lives! You and I together can give them Water for LIFE.

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."

This is the last week. Please call, write, or make your gift online.

End of video

In the studio

TAMMY: I hope you're going online and giving the best gift that you can today. You must know that it will make an eternal impact on the lives of so many around the world. You know the same as I do, Randy, the change that brings.

RANDY: I know! This is the last week we're talking about it on the air but we do this year-round. So we need you to get on the phone, go online, and make the best gift you can.

Terrell and Brandy, thank you so much! Your testimony just screams hope, hope, hope. Where can people find out more about you guys?

TERRELL: Yes, sir. So we have a new ministry we just launched around crusades and international work and inner-city work called Terrell Scott Ministries. So they can go to our website at TerrellScottMinistries.org. And also they can find our book there too that we just put together. So we're so excited about that.

RANDY: Wonderful! God bless you guys for telling your story and for sharing with so many people. Appreciate it. Love you guys.

TERRELL: We bless you guys!

BRANDY: Thank you, guys for having us. What an honor!

RANDY: Thank you guys out there for watching. Come back. We'll see you next time on *Life Today!*