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Week 47: Fall Mission Feeding

Randy Robison and Tammy Trent

Jeff and Tricia Bradford #2

Studio Discussion:

RANDY: Welcome to *LIFE Today*! That's Tammy Trent over there.

TAMMY: Hello!

RANDY: I'm Randy Robison. I don't know if you know this but I am the result of an unwanted pregnancy. I was an unplanned child and I thank God that my biological mother gave birth to me, chose life, and that James and Betty Robison adopted me and raised me. Tough situations can work out. At least somewhat okay. I think I turned out all right. Don't you think? Just a little?

TAMMY: Sort of okay.

RANDY: But abortion is a serious issue and it is one that we need to be good at handling in the church, and offering people hope and healing while standing on truth. If you missed the other program yesterday on the broadcast with Jeff and Tricia Bradford, they talk about their testimony. It's also in this book, *Beauty From Ashes*. So we want to let you know about that.

If you missed that program, go to LifeToday.org. You will want to see that. And they're back! Jeff, Tricia, welcome back.

JEFF: Thank you for having us back.

RANDY: One of the reasons I wanted to have you back is because one of the outreaches of LIFE

is to support your organization, the Human Coalition. So when people support *LIFE Outreach International*, you help support Human Coalition. And I'm thrilled for that. I love you guys. I love your heart and I love the work that you do. Tell people a little bit about Human Coalition.

JEFF: Well, I want to say thank you to *LIFE Outreach International* for being a partner. We couldn't do this work without you guys. And it is because of you that every day babies are saved from abortion and mothers are cared for.

That's what we get to do. God's called us into this work. We're now one of the largest pro-life pro-woman organizations in the country. There are about 216 employees across the country building an outreach for women who believe that abortion is their only option; that are online Googling to have an abortion. We reach out to them, bring them into a system of care and give them truly empowered options. We have TelaCare across state by state now after Dobbs. And so they get to talk to a nurse immediately and begin to counsel them for life and adoption.

It's a beautiful story. It's the story that I think Tricia and I had hoped someone would have stepped in for us, stepped in the gap, and said, hey, this is your child. You can do this. That's what Human Coalition gets to do every day. And now, over 30,000 lives have been saved because of our partnership with you and folks like you across the country.

RANDY: The fact that you guys chose abortion all those years ago, which again, they talk about on the other program, so LifeToday.org, has that changed how you approach abortion as an issue and how you approach women?

JEFF: Yes. There is no doubt. Our personal story is what drives me. Honestly, it was the last thing, as you can imagine, that I wanted to do, as we mentioned, are deeply ashamed of our story. We would have loved a story like yours where parents adopted. That's the beautiful story. So the one we chose, obviously, was death. And yet, God has used that in amazing ways; has redeemed us and reconciled our marriage.

And again, I want to say to anyone out there who's experienced abortion, that there is no sin

greater than the cross of Christ. That the Lord heals and forgives. But it's one that has shaped our lives and how we do our work, knowing how important it is to be the hands and feet of Jesus, of stepping in the gap for a mom and saying you can do this.

What I'm proud about with Human Coalition is we counsel moms but we also provide true help and hope; things like housing, education, and childcare. Legislation that cares for mom. We quarterback all those services, over 10,000 organizations that we have curated to walk alongside that mom.

So we have to take care of mom. She believes abortion is her only option because the culture has told her, you have to kill your child in order to flourish. And that's just not true. I'll give you one stat that might encourage you and it is also heartbreaking at the same time: 76 percent of the moms who call us, who believe abortion is their only option, they're heading to the abortion clinic. They're looking for an appointment. Those same moms will tell us, 76 percent of the time that they would prefer to parent if their circumstances were different.

TAMMY: Wow!

JEFF: So their hearts are broken. They've been told, "You can't do this. You must kill your child." The problem is you go into Planned Parenthood or the abortion clinic, you take the life of your child and you come out with all the same issues you had before. The pro-abortion industry is not helping those moms. It is the pro-life movement that is doing this kind of work. And so we have to care for moms, becomes the bottom line.

TAMMY: You talk about circumstances, 76 percent you said, feel like they would rather parent if things were different. So if somebody is struggling right now and they're Googling -- one thing I love is when I went to your website. The home page said this -- this is the first thing I read, "Make choosing life possible. Share the love of Christ with the next mom seeking an abortion. She's online right now. She is looking right now for answers. She is looking for answers. The next mom seeking an abortion doesn't want one but she doesn't feel like choosing life is an option right now."

She's online right now. She might be watching the broadcast right now or maybe her grandmother, or maybe her mom picks up the phone and calls, what am I going to get on the other end that will change my circumstances today?

JEFF: First, you're going to get a nurse, which is one of the most trusted professions, and someone who really understands their situation. They're going to understand all their options. They're going to understand what parenting will look like, what adoption, or foster care -- and what the abortion is. So whether they choose life or choose abortion, and we certainly hope they choose life, we're going to care for them and walk with them and educate them on where they're at right now.

But not only are we going to help them with great counseling, but we're going to provide what we call a "continuum of care." Where we have social workers going to walk with you as long as you want to walk with us, up to three or four years at times. We're going to help you with housing if that's an issue, or employment or childcare. These are resources that are available in America but the mom doesn't know where to go for them. She's just panicked. She thinks abortion is the only option. That's the only thing she can control right now. Let me get rid of that and go back to the situation I was in.

But the beauty is that you get to choose life. Do you know what the most incredible thing for me is, especially having come from where we came from? Is getting to see a mom who was hours from taking the life of their child to eight, nine months later seeing that baby in her mother's arms being held and saying, "I can't believe I almost aborted my child." And you see a life being held in their mother's arms.

That is the most incredible thing. And it's the gospel story. This is the story that we all live for, of taking something really hard and turning it into something really beautiful. That's what drives me every day.

RANDY: I love it! I love it! Let me ask you this, Tricia. What is Planned Parenthood and

similar organizations, what are they not telling a young pregnant girl when they go in there that you discovered the hard way?

TRICIA: Trauma -- it is what you experience that is very traumatic. It is very confusing because afterward, you have such grief. You're thinking, well, my country legalizes this, and it was just a glob of cells, and whatever lies they want to tell you, but your experience afterward is heartbreak and grief, and sadness and sorrow. It goes on and on.

JEFF: But our experience was even worse than that.

TRICIA: Yeah. So at the end of -- when I was coming out of the anesthesia, the abortionist asked me, "Do you want to know what the sex was of your baby?"

RANDY: Oh, gosh!

TRICIA: I called for the nurse. You're confused and you're wondering why he even said that. And of course, you're just blocking it out as well, just wanting to get out of there. It was just so sterile and cold. I was -- and I actually -- I didn't remember that until I went through the post-abortive Bible study.

TAMMY: The stuff that you pushed, that you oppressed, that you didn't want to go there, didn't want to think about it, I don't want to think about this for years, and yet, it was there. And it was there affecting everything all along.

JEFF: Tammy, in our last session you asked why we wrote this book. The other reason that I didn't give in our last session together was after Dobbs, there was so much media and news about how the life movement hurts women and doesn't care for women. That they can't get medical help. We saw so many lies and misrepresentations of what was really going on. And we know the truth. We know that the pro-life movement is actually helping and caring for moms and empowering moms; saying what you can do. Whereas, abortion only takes the life of a child and tells a mom what she can't do.

Those are the things that have driven us to care for moms well, to love them. So many of these moms that we see every day have no one in their lives telling them, you can do this, and having someone who is loving on them and caring for them. Ninety-seven percent of the women we bring in tell us that they would refer a friend or family member, even those that abort their child - that go on and abort. And so it just shows you how much they need true support.

RANDY: Yeah. One of the easiest things to do in this situation is to curse the darkness because it is very real, it is very dark. They're lying to young women. They're taking the lives of innocent children. And literally, the Bible says that God hates those things. So yeah, cursing that darkness is easy. What I love is that you guys are lighting that candle. You're shining a light. We really have to get there. Right?

What do you say to the average person at home watching going I love -- yay them! What can we do as the body of Christ, all of the body, not one little piece to help women to see that life is precious? And yes, you are in a difficult circumstance but there can be beauty from your ashes. How do we get better at this?

JEFF: Well, I think one of the reasons, as I mentioned, for writing this book is to start a conversation; to be able to talk about this issue in winsome and graceful and loving ways. Do you think about why there is so much clash? We should all be caring for moms and helping save babies and caring for those children.

So I think it starts at our churches. I think our pastors have to continue, and we have to have more pastors talking about the life issue again in ways that are healing and redemptive. It feels like, as I mentioned before, the unforgivable sin because so many pastors say they consider it a political issue, and yet, we all know it is a spiritual issue. So they don't talk about it because they don't want to polarize their congregation. That's where we're not bringing healing, we're not bringing light, we're not talking about this. Our voices have to continue to be heard.

TAMMY: I think for me, Randy, this program is so good and so helpful. It's given me tools and

information. So I think for me, my takeaway is like now I have some answers. Now I can help people. If somebody came to me today and said, Tammy, I'm struggling. I don't think there is a way out of this. I have no options. I'm grateful for you guys because I feel like now I'm more equipped to say, wait a second, there are more options than what you're being told. There is a way out. It probably looks different than what you think. But let me give you some numbers, let me give you some direction. People want to love on you, walk you through this and help you understand what these options are going to look like. Choosing life in any area of our life will always be better than choosing death.

RANDY: I also love the fact that you're exemplifying that even those who have chosen abortion, God can still bless. How many children do you have?

JEFF: We have four. Yes, by God's grace.

RANDY: I know you still have that empty place but yet there is joy, there is fulfillment. There is fulfillment. There is beauty and purpose. In a tough program like this one, I like to leave people with some hope. For those who have gone through an abortion or contemplating one, or in difficult circumstances, what assurance can you give them that there is hope?

JEFF: They have a heavenly Father who loves them and will never leave them nor forsake them. You have communities that want to come around you and help. There is help and hope out there. We want to help those women at Human Coalition and bring them into that system of care, and that continuum of care, and ultimately help bridge them to a faith community where they can flourish.

We have so many stories of moms who were homeless that have just bought their first house. We have amazing stories of moms who felt hopeless and they have now come into a community where we can all gather around and help each other. That's the body of Christ. That's what we're called to do and that's what we are calling churches to do: Get involved, talk about this winsomely and gracefully, and let's end abortion. Let's make it -- our vision is to make it unthinkable, the same way that you think about human slavery today, right? And unnecessary.

People say, unnecessary? What do you mean by that? Why would you say that? It is not necessary. To the mom, she thinks it is necessary. And how do we make that unnecessary for her? And that is providing that continuum of care.

So the body of Christ coming together is a beautiful thing. We've experienced that in the gospel story of ourselves. If God is reaching out to us, rescuing and restoring us, that's why we help at Human Coalition. Reach that mom who believes that abortion is her only option. Rescue her and the child from abortion and restore her to wholeness and to the gospel community.

RANDY: Love it! I want to say thank you on behalf of *LIFE Outreach International* for the work that you do. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve alongside you and support what you do. So thank you so much.

JEFF: Thank you again for supporting us. We love you guys. You guys make an impact all over the world.

RANDY: It's personal to me too though to go yes, we're doing something to help mothers in tough situations and leading people to choose life. I was blessed because one woman chose life and another family raised me and showed me God's love. I want that. I want that.

If you're struggling in that area, pick up the phone and call the number. Let someone who is ready to pray with you, to encourage you today, we can do this. We can love better. We can live better. We can choose life together.

There is another situation that seems hopeless for a lot of families, a lot of mothers, a lot of young children. And there is another way we can reach out and bless people with the love of God, and encourage them by meeting that practical need. Because that is such a powerful combination to meet that practical need in the name of Jesus. Here is a way that you can do this. I hope you'll join us in blessing people through the Mission Feeding outreach today.

Transition roll-in:

ANNOUNCER: These orange bowls full of vitamin-enriched soup are dished up daily to thousands of children in the school feeding program. This is why we can say Mission Feeding saves lives. And because of Mission Feeding, we are saving lives in other ways. In areas hit by natural disasters, our mission partners are answering the call with emergency food distribution efforts. Mission Feeding also provides malnutrition clinics, and therapeutic milk for children who cannot tolerate solid food. And we distribute boxes of food packs to clinics so mothers can feed their children as they struggle to survive the ravages of malnutrition.

Maria Daefatima is a mother who benefited from Mission Feeding. Maria took her son Zasha who is suffering from malnutrition to a rural clinic near her village where he was given food. As Maria shared her story with John Yeatts, Zasha decided he would come in and join the activity.

JOHN: So he just came in from playing. And the fact is this little boy was severely sick just a few months ago and he is able to play today because Maria can receive food rations from the malnutrition clinic.

ANNOUNCER: But the reality for mothers in countries like Angola is the mortality rate among children under five is the highest in Sub-Saharan, Africa, and the major contributing factor for their deaths is malnutrition. Children like Zasha can only be saved if we continue Mission Feeding.

JOHN: So I'm asking you, would you help us? Would you help us continue to help Maria and would you help us help other mothers just like Maria?

Open captions:

>> And God bless you for making a long journey here and come to my humble house.

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

Studio Appeal:

TAMMY: Can I just give a little bit of a shout? Hallelujah! Amen! We are doing it. We are doing it. You saw it in that piece right there. That's something to get excited about. Together we are doing it. We're making a difference. We're making an impact. We are helping to save lives. This is working. Your giving is working. You can see it right there.

So the flip side to that is the need to keep working, to keep moving in these areas, to keep reaching out, to keep bringing lifesaving food to these families and these children. We have been given incredible opportunities. Every time I get on a plane and I travel to another country I see the need. But many times, I see as they're standing in those lines waiting for that bowl of soup, I'm seeing every single life changed because of what is in this bowl, because of you gave to put in this bowl. So let me just say today, thank you, thank you, thank you. But there is so much more work to be done.

RANDY: And you know, we go wherever there is need. And it does move at times, different things happen, whether it is a conflict in an area, a flood, a famine. The important thing is that we're there when the need is great so the children don't get to the point where they're in one of our malnutrition clinics, and exhibiting all of the signs of malnutrition. The way that works is we continue what we're doing, expand it into areas where the need arises. Because we have the people on the ground. We have the supplies, we have the know how, we have the relationships through our mission partners with various governments.

What is lacking? In a lot of ways it is just you. And it is just this simple: A \$30 gift right now will help feed three children for the next three months. A \$50 gift will help feed five children for the next three months. I think you're seeing the pattern here. \$100 will help feed ten children. Let me tell you, there are many children in need. Some of you can give \$1,000 or more right now. We will put it to good use so we can see more stories like we've shown you there.

But know this, the need is great. We must act today. So that's what I'm asking you to do. Pick up the phone, go online right now, make the best gift you can.

Cause spot:

ANNOUNCER: Right now across the continent of Africa, children are suffering, facing severe malnutrition and even death. Extreme drought and famine putting at risk thousands of lives means we must replenish food supplies immediately to keep feeding the 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 life-saving 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 Daily LIFE devotional calendar. This perpetual calendar has 365 days' worth of scriptures and inspirational thoughts to remind you of the rest you can find in God's loving arms.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the "The Light of Life" desk lamp. Find comfort and encouragement from Jesus' words in John 8:12 displayed on this stand-alone acrylic gas lamp, perfect for home or office décor as a reminder that Jesus is the light of the world.

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**Studio goodbye:**

RANDY: I do hope you will go online or go to the phones, however you prefer. Just be a part -- be a part of this huge blessing. It is necessary and it is a privilege to do it in the name of Jesus. So make the best gift you can.

Tammy, I hope if you're interested, that you will request this book, what a blessing!

TAMMY: For any amount that you're able to give to the ministry today, we want to send you *Beauty from Ashes*: "A Christian couple's journey from abortion to redemption."

I cannot tell you how much I have loved spending today with you both. It has helped me so much. And I know, and I pray it has helped so many of you today, equipping you to know just how to handle a situation that might be in your life right now or surrounding your life. God is giving us answers and he's given us a great love to know how to walk in journey out with so many people. We love you. Thank you for watching. We'll see you next time on *Life Today*!