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Week 47: Fall Mission Feeding

Randy Robison and Tammy Trent

Mission Feeding Special #1

Studio Discussion:

RANDY: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. A very special edition of *Life Today*. I'm Randy Robison. Tammy Trent is with me. There have been a lot of things in the news recently, but something you may not have seen is some situations going on in various parts of Africa, largely Sub-Saharan Africa, but a couple of other places as well, where *LIFE Outreach* works. And through the support of many people just like you, we have been able to save the lives of so many people, largely children through the Mission Feeding outreach.

The situation is urgent in many places and persecution is up -- persecution of Christians is up in many places. You may not have seen that but it is absolutely true. We have the ability to reach into many urgent situations right now. But we can only do it with your support. That's why I hope you'll stick around for just a few moments and let us show you what's going on in these places. The situation can seem overwhelming with such great need but Tammy, when we stop long enough to say okay, I see this child, we realize we really can make a difference.

TAMMY: I think that needs to be our focus, maybe even today, is to think about that one child. Because you're right, Randy, it can feel incredibly enormous to feel like how am I going to make a difference in this fight right now? But think about that one child right now and I promise you, when you do that and you focus on that, I think you'll see it differently.

RANDY: The war on malnutrition rages but we have to fight it one battle at a time. One life at a time. So stick with us. You're going to see some things that are difficult but you're also going to see some things that are powerful as you realize what you can do in fighting and winning one battle at a time.

For a little bit of context, we feed 350,000 children every day in difficult areas. That's only possible because of the support of people just like you. So thank you if you have participated. And thank you to those who continue to participate. Right now we need you to do something. Watch this and you'll understand.

Transition Roll-in:

ANNOUNCER: When you see images of war, your thoughts turn to the misery caused by bombs and bullets flying. But there is a different kind of war raging in Africa.

[Child crying]

ISAK: The war for enough food. The war to be able to provide the nutrition that children need because there are areas like this where we're engaging with mothers who are telling us how their children are literally suffering from malnutrition on an ongoing basis. How more than 25% of the mothers here are testifying to the fact that they've lost one or more children as a result of malnutrition. Some of them, even starvation. That's the war that currently rages here. And that's what we've got to continue to impact. We've got to meet the crisis need for food because food is what these families in this area need right now.

And then, we can go through that transformational process with them where we can bring about lasting change that will ensure they're able to provide for themselves. But if we are not able to feed them while we get there, then many more children's lives will be lost.

That's why we ask you to partner with us in direct food response to provide Mission Feeding to these areas because that is what is needed most right now. We can't save life without you. So that's why I'm asking you to join hands and hearts with us today, to partner with us by giving the very best gift you can give by giving the gift of life -- the gift of food.

Studio Discussion:

RANDY: Now you see this is the battle we are fighting. There is great, great need. But listen, we've been doing this since 1989 -- like three and a half decades now. That's not because we haven't met the need, it's because it is an ongoing situation. It is because needs arise in different places and we go to where the need is the greatest.

Many of the children we have fed over the years aren't on Mission Feeding anymore because they have moved on. Their crops have improved and they take care of themselves. This is the goal. But right now, the need is immediate. It is in places where there is drought, where there is famine, where there may be conflict, or maybe displacement -- maybe even floods in some places. Wherever the need arises, we want to be there. That's only possible because of you.

So let me give you a quick overview; \$30 will help feed three children for the next three months. You say, how do you do that? Again, it is because we have so much in place and we maximize every dollar. \$50 will help feed five children for the next three months. That should tell you, I can do something to impact a life and I can do it today. Yes, yes, yes! That's what we're trying to show you. \$100 will help feed ten children for the next three months. Maybe you could reach 100 children for the next three months with a gift of \$1,000. Multiply that if you want to do more.

Whatever you can do, know that you will reach so many children. The need is great but the solution is right before you. It is all of us coming together. You give a voice to the voiceless. Tammy, I think that's one of the reasons it is such a blessing to be able to say, yeah, here's a need but here's a solution.

TAMMY: Randy, it is working. I want to tell you Mission Feeding works. When we go into these villages and set up Mission Feeding, we see these children lining up with their bowls, it is working. It is saving lives. We're doing the hard work. You are giving -- you are giving more than you could ever even imagine -- saving a life.

But do you know what? We're going to get on a plane soon and we're going to head to another village that doesn't have Mission Feeding, and they need it desperately. So that is our heart's cry

to you today. If you've given before, thank you, thank you, thank you. God bless you. Would you consider giving another gift today? If you've never given before would you consider giving a gift today?

We're ready. We are boots on the ground. We are there ready to go. All we need is a little extra help to make it happen. So that would be my heart's cry to you today. Would you take a moment and pray? Ask God what it is he would ask you to give. Then go online or go to the phone and make the best gift you can give today. It will save a life.

Transition Roll-in:

TAMMY: In my travels to the mission field, I'm always torn between happiness and sorrow. Happy when I get to be part of our Mission Feeding program that is saving children's lives and providing hope for their mothers.

And then there is sorrow. Sorrow when I'm with mothers in total despair because they have no food for their families. Sorrow as I watch children fighting for their lives because of severe malnutrition. For me, at times like these, I must speak up for the voiceless and say that providing them with life-saving food can be the difference between life and death.

I do believe in hope. I do believe that God will provide. I do believe that that provision will come from God's people. Because truly, at the end of the day, we are all family. We are all family and I believe that God asks us to step up when we see a need and do whatever we can to stand in the gap for these families, for these children, to save their very lives.

We can't wait another day. We cannot wait for tomorrow. They may not have tomorrow. Tomorrow may never come for them. But we have today. And today – today, I will speak for them. Please send help.

Studio Appeal:

TAMMY: Every trip that I take, I always leave America with great excitement and anticipation and wonder for what I'm about to experience wherever God places me each day. I prayerfully think about those days and I ask the Holy Spirit to equip me and make me ready and sensitive to whatever that day might unfold.

I walked into many villages. I remember that experience and that trip was a very difficult one for me. It was really hard. I think it would be for any one of us. When you walk in and you see precious little children dying before your eyes, because of the lack of food. It is something that I never think about. I never have a concern about my next meal or my next snack, my next cup of water. I just don't think about it.

When I'm in these places and I'm watching these mothers in agony hanging on to hope as much as they can, and they're looking up to us, every stare, every glance has that same message, help! Help! Somebody help us. Help us! Can you help us?

I'm in those places and when I leave my emotions are raw. It's hard. I've carried stories with me. I get in that car and I head back to my hotel and I just feel almost without words in that moment because I know what they need. I know why they're dying. I can see it all around me.

But I also know how to help them. I know that we can come together as a ministry, as partners together and we can change their circumstances. Things can turn around quickly for them. Just as close as they are to death, they are as close to life if we can get to them today.

So right now, my excitement is that I know that we are feeding 350,000 children every single day. But I also know because of what I've seen that there are so many more out there right now that need our help.

Randy, I know I can't do it alone. My tears won't change it. We have to act and we have to do something.

RANDY: Tammy, you're 100% right. We can expand this outreach. But we'll have to talk about

that another time because right now we need to continue with the 350,000 that we're feeding every day.

Here's an interesting thing, Tammy and this struck me hard. I've said it on the air before, maybe you've heard it. But when Paul was preaching the gospel, he preached the gospel for a while before going and meeting with the disciples. So here you've got a guy who was radically changed. He was persecuting Christians until he met Jesus on the road and he flipped and he goes out and he is preaching the gospel.

Then he meets with the other disciples, the apostles, the ones who walked with Jesus, he was basically checking, this is what I've been preaching, guys. Is this right? I want to know from the people who walked with Jesus. Am I preaching the right thing? And they said, "Yes. Yes, that's the gospel, Paul. That's the gospel."

You would think, okay, that's good. But then they said, "But one more thing." Now let me ask you, what would you put that one more thing? Make sure you vote for the right candidate. No, that's important and that's good but that's not what he said. Make sure that you worship in this sort of way in your church with this sort of music. No, no, no. Again, I'm not downplaying all those things.

They basically have the theology of the gospel and one more thing. Do you know what it was? Don't forget the poor. Don't forget the poor. If there is anything we need to remember, it is what the apostles and Paul agreed on. Paul said, "I'm glad to do it." I know you're glad to do it.

And so we're asking you to do it today, don't forget the poor. We won't. God won't. When we go to them and give them food, we do it in Jesus' name. It is not just a good work, it is a God work. Be a part of it. Pick up the phone, go online, make the best gift you can. Let's do the good work of Christ.

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

Transition Roll-in:

ASHTON: On my first day here in Benguela, we decided to go and visit the Benguelan malnutrition clinic. Prior to this trip, I thought I was prepared to see these things. I've watched James and Betty on TV. I've been in their studio. I've seen the videos, I've heard the stories so I can handle this.

But when I stepped in, there was a child on every single bed. They're skin and bones. Some of

them have sores on their mouths. They've got that tint of orange hair that you often see in malnourished children. Some of them -- it was joyful to see because some of them were drinking that milk and eating that peanut butter mix that the team provided for them. You could tell that they were gaining weight.

But then there were others. There was this little girl named Maria. And just to lay eyes on her broke my heart. As I laid my hand on her leg, I remember how small it was. It was taking every bit of energy she had just to sit up. But this is the condition.

Coming here and meeting the moms, meeting the babies, holding their children, these aren't just stories, they're real people -- real children. It's completely different when you're here and you hold their hands. You ask them the questions and they share their sorrows with you, facing tragedy and suffering every single day.

The goal here is to give these people a lifeline so that they can build themselves up, they can have enough food. Their desire isn't for a handout but a hand up. We need your help.

Studio Appeal:

TAMMY: Honestly, I could not have said it any better than Ashton said that. She painted for us an incredible picture of truth of what we see every time we are there. The need is extraordinarily enormous. It is critical. They need our help or they will die. That's the reality of a story like that.

I've walked into malnutrition clinics and I've been there with Ashton. The last trip we just took to Africa, we were there together. She is precious. She has a heart and a love for these people just as we all do. We walked into that malnutrition clinic, just as she described to look around and seeing children on every single bed in need.

There was a child that had died while we were there in a clinic. I remember having to walk out. I just stood on the back porch and just wept myself and thought, if we'd just been there a little bit sooner how could this story be different today? If I'd just done a little something more how

could I have helped turn this around?

These are real-life stories. They are real lives and they matter. They matter to God. And because they matter to God, they have to matter to us. We have to take action. I know that I'm speaking to many people right now who have the ability to help. I have the ability to help, Randy. We all can do something today.

I think that's the issue. Like we can't just sit back. We have to do something. We've laid this out, we've presented it to you. There is a need. Now we pray about it and we take action. God, how can I make a difference? How can I help? That has been my prayer every time I get on the mission field. Every time I sit in this chair, how can I make a difference and serve your people well?

RANDY: Not far from the malnutrition clinic there in Benguela, and I think you've seen this, there is a graveyard. We went to that graveyard several years ago and walked around. I noticed something. I stopped and looked because it was almost unbelievable, almost too much to comprehend. That is they had pre-dug graves that were short because they were child-sized.

I thought, God, I'll do anything to not fill that grave. Let that grave go empty. Let us get to that child sooner. Let us reach them even before the malnutrition. But if they're in a malnutrition clinic, let us be able to meet that need right there. But let us get into the villages so they don't even make it to the malnutrition clinic so they never make it to the graves. I want that grave to be empty. Let them dig their holes. They'll never be filled. Why?

Because you joined us. Because our mission partners got what they needed and they fed those children. And those children made a turn if they were already malnourished, went to school, learned to take care of themselves. They have a hope and a future. They know it is because some people came in to their difficult circumstances. They called themselves "Christians." They expressed God's love. They saved a life.

You can do that. A simple gift of \$30 will help us feed three children for the next three months.

That may be the difference; that may be all the difference a child needs. \$50 will feed five. \$100 will feed ten. \$1,000 will feed 100. You get the picture. We can do this but we have to do it now. It is urgent.

So I'm asking you, please, take advantage of the privilege of being God's hands and God's feet around the world. Go to the phone, go online, make the best gift you can.

Cause spot:

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End of video

Field appeal:

ISAK: As we've traveled around these communities in southern Angola, family after family has told us how they're experiencing the worst drought they've ever seen. Statistically, it is the worst drought in over 40 years. Families tell us of how their crops have failed, of how they're running out of food. You can see when you look at these crops, you can see why these crops have failed. There is no life in here. There is no way that these crops can produce any food. This swale is literally just dry. No life in it at all. Failed crops though mean failed lives. And as there is no life left in this soil, if we're not able to respond here soon this drought will not just steal the life in the soil but the life in the communities.

So please, I'm asking you to dial that number on your screen or get online and give the very best gift you can today to give the gift of life by giving the gift of food to these mothers and their precious children here in Angola that so desperately need our help.

Studio goodbye:

TAMMY: The face of a child in need. Do you see that? They need us! They need us today. They need us to act. They need us to do something. And when we do, when we respond, I am telling you because I've seen it, we together will change a life. Focus on that one child today. It will make a difference. You will impact the life of that child and many, many children to come all around her right now today.

RANDY: Yeah, and you know as we hit the end of the year, a lot of people talk about year-end gifts. Maybe you're planning that. If you are, I hope you'll look at this not just as a gift, it is a gift, but also an investment, because it is an investment in the future, it is an investment in the gospel.

Thank you for watching. Thank you for being with us. And thank you for being a part of Mission Feeding. Together, we can reach so many with the love and the action that goes with it of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We'll see you next time.

