

12/25/24

**Week 52: Fall Mission Feeding, last week**

**James and Betty Robison**

**Christmas Special**

**Studio Open:**

**JAMES:** Well, we welcome you to this wonderful day, the birth of Jesus. Betty and I are sitting here together, think about this, we'll soon be married 62 years. We're both in our 80s; we've hit 81.

But as I'm sitting here, I just really felt like and I've even told you this, Betty, that this is a celebration time. We spent Christmas with our entire family which now we couldn't even host -- there's over 50 in our immediate family. We have over 30 grandchildren, 11 grands and all the rest greats. Betty put on a Christmas special for our greats a year or so ago.

**BETTY:** Party, yeah.

**JAMES:** By the way, we just came back a few weeks ago from Tulsa, Oklahoma which is where our daughter lived when she married Ken Turner. He was able to retire early. He was ten years older than her. But he took care of her for the seven years she fought for her life. And she was always the greatest party giver.

**BETTY:** She was!

**JAMES:** And 12 years ago, she left us three days after Christmas. We had Christmas with our family because she wanted to watch it from Fort Worth in a hospital in Tulsa. She was so happy just to see us. It was the last time we could hear her being joyful because she knew she was leaving. She didn't think it was the way it was supposed to be.

Anyway, I'm starting this way because what I found out, and it could be because of the years that we've been on planet earth, and we said good-bye to a lot of our friends. They have died now. Some of them have serious illnesses. Some of them have heavy Alzheimer's. And we watched the weight on the families. I guess God just showed me because see we're trying to put God's arms around the suffering and the broken all over the world and you've helped us do that.

If you've helped us put God's arms around the least of these, thank you. I was just talking to some of my staff a few minutes ago and I said, "What gives God joy? The joy of the Lord is our strength. What gives him joy?" It is like he whispered, "When I watch my people put my arms around others, see you love others -- really love them."

Betty, we've spent our life with the help of people who are willing to touch those who felt like nobody ever noticed them, the least of these, and knowing it blesses Jesus. So, we spent our life doing that.

But I think we feel more and more the weight and the burden of people here. There is a lot of the weight that we brought on ourselves because we discounted the authority of God. We didn't learn from our founders the importance of getting wisdom from nature's God and direction from divine prophets. It is like we've cast God aside and we've been given over to a depraved mentality.

So anyway, this Christmas I'm saying God, this is when the greatest event in history, maybe only the resurrection could even contest its miraculous greatness. But this is the birth of Jesus. But Jesus came to die to give us life. And also, to give us comfort. And we can give him joy, and we can give joy and peace and life to others. We want to do that.

So, as I'm thinking about the joys of Christmas, I'm also thinking that a lot of you feel what we feel, the great precious memories of our daughter. We just went and saw six of her grandchildren because two were born this year to add to the four that were already here. We got to see them all together. She's only seen them from heaven.

Well, sure, this is weighty, but don't we have tremendous joy? And only God can carry us through this weight. I'm just saying to you, Betty, and I right now want you to know we love you.

God, please bless everybody with a broken heart. Please let them know that you are the hope of humanity. You are the one that can heal the brokenness of our nation, and families, and marriages, and relationships. You're the only one who can give us real peace and comfort, in Jesus' name.

What do you feel in your heart right now, Betty, even as you've listened to me just unable to hold back what I just shared?

**BETTY:** Well, you know, Christmas is a very special time. Mainly because of Jesus coming into our lives and changing our hearts forever. So, it's a very special time! But as humans, it is a very special time too. James expressed the loss of our daughter. Yes, it is a sad time for us, but we have gotten to the time now, James, the time has passed where it is more of a joy remembering. She was a precious girl, a wonderful wife and a wonderful mother, and would have made a wonderful grandmother.

So, God will walk us through all these things but he says, "Count it all joy. And I will be with you." The joy of the Lord is our strength.

**JAMES:** We just love you. Thank you for sharing this part of Christmas with us. We ask God will lighten your load and brighten your day. And use us to lighten the load of others and brighten their days.

You're going to hear some beautiful songs from friends and people who have been here. We've ministered to so many people. I'm watching so many of the people that I've poured life and years into who are now becoming leaders in our country! And I'm just seeing prayers answered that God, you can heal our land by putting great people who know that wisdom comes from nature's God and know that direction comes from divine providence. They're going into leadership. And

many of them I've poured years into. People that I wouldn't have even wanted to be with, but God sent me to them. I've watched God work in their lives. And he can work in this nation, and he can touch the world with his love, the love that was born on this day that we celebrate.

You know Mary carried a heavy load. As you listen to this song, imagine her a little girl young, not married, pregnant, never had sex. Boy, she carried a weight, condemnation, criticism, misunderstanding, and yet, she's about to give birth to the Son of God, the Savior -- the Lord of lords, the King of kings. We're going to be sharing some beautiful messages in song, many of them by people you know and respect. I believe this will bless you.

**NICOL SPONBERG:**

“Breath of Heaven”

I have traveled many moonless nights  
 Cold and weary with a babe inside  
 And I wonder what I've done  
 Holy Father, You have come  
 And chosen me now to carry Your Son

I am waiting in a silent prayer  
 I am frightened by the load I bear  
 In a world as cold as stone  
 Must I walk this path alone?  
 Be with me now, be with me now

Breath of Heaven, hold me together  
 Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven  
 Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness  
 Pour over me Your holiness for You are holy  
 Breath of Heaven

Do you wonder as you watch my face  
 If a wiser one should have had my place?  
 But I offer all I am  
 For the mercy of Your plan  
 Help me be strong, help me be, help me

Breath of Heaven, hold me together  
 Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven  
 Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness  
 Pour over me Your holiness for You are holy

Breath of Heaven, hold me together  
 Be forever near me, breath of Heaven  
 Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness  
 Pour over me Your holiness for You are holy  
 Breath of Heaven, Breath of Heaven  
 Breath of Heaven

### **BIG DADDY WEAVE:**

“Christ is Come”

The word of the prophets, centuries old  
 The birth of Messiah has been long foretold  
 That unto you, now unto you

Christ is come, let all creation sing  
 God's own son, oh hail the newborn King  
 The word made flesh now dwells among us  
 Christ is come

Those born in darkness have seen a great light  
 The Redeemer of our hearts has been born this night  
 Now unto you, unto you

Christ is come, let all creation sing  
 God's own son, oh, hail the newborn King  
 The word made flesh now dwells among us  
 Christ is come

Prince of Peace, Yeshua, Messiah, the Son of Man  
 Holy One, King of kings, Lord of lords, the Great I Am  
 Comforter, Counselor, Author and Finisher  
 Divine Truth Revealer, Deliverer, Healer  
 You, our God, Jesus, You, our God

Christ is come, let all creation sing  
 God's own son, oh, hail the newborn King  
 The word made flesh, now dwells among us  
 Christ is come, Christ is come

**Studio appeal:**

**JAMES:** Wow! And by the way, it is on the way that parents can bear losing a daughter at age 40. And all the burdens that we carry, we're able to carry because he lightens the load and brightens the day. Don't we have a wonderful Savior?

**BETTY:** We really do! I want you to know that Christmas can be a special time too. Even though you think maybe that person you love so much is gone, they're really still in your heart. I love decorating for Christmas because of Robin. I see things, I do things that remind me of her, and the joy that she felt in decorating and seeing things so beautifully lit up, and the joy in her children's faces. That's what carries me on.

And now, the pain has become a pleasure in many ways that I can continue what she loved so much. So, look around, see what might make you joyful about that lost one. See what might bring peace to your heart. God can do those things for you.

**JAMES:** Well, you know what God has put on our heart as a ministry? To give hope to the hopeless, to reach out to the overlooked, the forgotten, the never noticed. Jesus called them "the least of these."

Do you know that right now we're in the very last week of our feeding of 350,000 precious children? Do you realize for them every day becomes Christmas? Because it is the reason they're able to live another day.

If you could help us feed 350,000 children for the next months, please make the best gift you can here at this this year-end time and while we celebrate the love of God and the life of Christ. I really believe you'll want to do that. And with all of our heart, thank you for brightening the days of children who didn't have many days; 18 million have been confirmed that you helped save their lives. That's what Mission Feeding did.

So, you help as God leads and as God directs. One of the greatest songs I think ever written is "O Holy Night." One of the greatest singers, has been with me for over 50 years. I led her to the Lord when she was a teenager, Jeanne Rogers. I think you're going to enjoy "O Holy Night."

**JEANNE ROGERS:**

"O Holy Night"

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
 O night divine, O night, O holy night.

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
 His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
 Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
 And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
 Let all within us praise His holy name.

Noel, noel

O night, o night divine

O noel, noel

O night, o night divine

Noel, noel

O night, o night divine

**Studio good-bye:**

**JAMES:** Oh, boy! I've been listening to Jeanne since she was 16 years old. She's been with me for well over 50 years. I just love you, girl! Love all your kids and grandkids!

I love all of you. I wish I could know you. I want us to all know him better. And as a result of his birth and his life in us, let's help everybody come to know him. Let's spend the rest of our life pointing people to Jesus. You can help us feed them. You can help us give them water but the greatest thing we can do is show them the water of life, the love of God, the bread of life!



Thank you so much for watching us. Now let's be their lives sharing Jesus. He was born that we might be born again and live forever. But that life everlasting can start right now. His will done on his earth. Thanks for sharing this time with us.

**GORDON MOTE:**

“Christmas Medley”