

12/27/24 From: 12/08/23
Week 50: Fall Mission Feeding, last week
James and Betty Robison
Fall Mission Feeding Special #2 (Modified)

Studio discussion:

JAMES: I want to welcome you to *Life Today*. Betty and I are thrilled to be in your home. This is going to be one of the most important programs that we've ever aired. We're going to have some memories come back and you're going to see the parallel between two of the memories. But Betty, we're going to show our viewers the first trip we ever made to the mission fields, of starvation, in Mozambique. And we're in one of the largest refugee camps, and I met a little boy that we were giving food to that became my little buddy. And you can see him right there.

Betty just commented a while ago, we saw that photograph for the first time, and she said, "We should grow your hair back long like that."

Let me tell you this, that little boy, he changed our life. And he always will be "little buddy," because when I asked him about the soup they were drinking, he had a little cup, and basically, I was asking him if he liked it and if it was good. He said, "Yaw!"

And the thing you need to know is because of Little Buddy, we met millions of little buddies. And Betty, we basically never left. We came home not knowing if our viewers would help the starving. And we sold everything. And this building laid on the ground, tilted up concrete, laid on the ground ready to be tilted up for television. We didn't have a different facility because we weren't going to take any money to do anything but save kids.

And we've saved, now you think about it, 18 million lives. It was a few years ago that they reported, the governments of Africa, that we had saved 13 million, and now we've found out in the last year, 18 million. Who would have ever thought that would happen, Betty, from just meeting a little buddy and falling in love with these precious children?

BETTY: You do, James. God knew we needed a little buddy. He needed someone who would grab our hearts so that we could see and feel and know the need that was there. Because James, you know my perception, especially of Africa, was it's a place far away. And I couldn't imagine. And I was a little afraid when we first went that way. But it did not take long for my heart to be touched and know that there's something we could do to make a difference in the lives of these children. We could save their lives!

JAMES: And Betty, we couldn't do it without our viewers. I want you to listen to stories that are going to be told, Betty, which are going to kick in real firm with me and Betty. And after you've seen this, you're going to know why. But I want you to listen to a mother, a wife, that is an example of the millions of people we've not only touched and fed but have saved their lives. "We" meaning you, just as big to us, even bigger than any aspect other than the missionaries. And the missionaries will still say you are the bigger reason for the saved lives. Watch carefully, focused, and prayerfully, please.

Mission field:

>> I'm here really asking for help, especially for my children so that they can get a better education. So that tomorrow they may not be criminals.

ASHTON: My name is Ashton and I'm a journalist for *Life Today*. Recently, in Angola, I met a precious mother named Madalena. And while it is difficult to convey Madalena's broken heart to those who weren't there that day, we made her a promise that we would do our best.

Open captions:

>> It's been four years this August since my husband died. He died on August 9th.

ASHTON: Before Madalena's husband tragically passed, they had six children together, including this sweet girl Jenerosa. As Madalena told us their names, we saw palpable sadness in her eyes when she spoke the name of her youngest child, Julia. Just two months ago, Madalena

had suffered the worst loss a mother could face. Her daughter Julia had died as a result of malnutrition. Julia was four years old.

Open captions:

>> Julia was already very slim, but then she just kept losing weight... At the hospital, Julia asked to be taken home "to be with Dad."

ASHTON: Your other children, I know we have one of them sitting just over here, do they remember Julia?

Open captions

>> She's always asking, always talking about Julia's bowl too.

ASHTON: Dear Heavenly Father, I know that you can see Madalena. So I pray for her today, Lord that you would give them all that they need, more than enough food.

So remember the poor. Remember the widow. Remember Julia. Together we can make sure that another child just like her won't die simply because they don't have enough food.

End of video

Studio discussion:

JAMES: You see, Betty and I can really understand about the little girl, four years old. We had our little girl ten times that long, 40 years, our Robin, our miracle baby. She left three teenagers. She now has four grandchildren. She sees from heaven. We know the weight of losing a child.

We also know the joy of giving children life. Betty, when I talked about Little Buddy's cup and people watched us pouring soup, porridge into tin cans and they would burn their little hands because we would have to heat it; the water everywhere is not uncontaminated so you have to boil it. And you're the ones that gave the colored bowls that you began to see later. You insisted that we not let them burn their hands on tin cans or plastic bags that would burn through. And

you just never have stopped loving.

Betty, our viewers have saved so many mothers' children, and so many families. I just wish they could understand what that means.

BETTY: I do, too. And what's important about these bowls, too, is you can serve more of a level amount so that it goes further. Because in the containers they had it was hard to measure how much we were giving them. We'd run out so many times, James. So I was so grateful in many ways for the bowls. It doesn't burn their hands and it gives them what they need for their nourishment.

But you've done that with us for many years, some of you have. For some of you, maybe it is the first time. I hope and pray that God puts it on your heart to do something to help these children. They deserve a chance at life. These mothers deserve to watch their children grow up. We had three beautiful children. One lived for 40 years before God took her on to be with him, but we got 40 years. This mother got four years with her little baby. That is so sad to me. She didn't get to see her baby grow up, James.

So let's make the difference for these families, these mothers. They watch them their whole lives. Let's give and help them live.

JAMES: See, it's really hard for me not to just start weeping because I still remember what it was like when our little girl was gone. But please, I've said to you many times, were it not for you, we would join the missionaries and all we could do is weep because we couldn't do anything about the problem—except weep. Those missionaries oftentimes move their entire family from another country to a place where they don't even speak the language. And they plant their life there to save lives. And they say the worst thing in the world is to be empty-handed. And our hearts are broken. And we've been able to help mend their hearts and give them hands full of not just love, but the ability to meet the need. And you're the ones that put that ability in their hands. You not only put the food there, you put the bowls there, and many times, twice as many show up. And if you can't apportion it, you will run out halfway through. But like Betty

said, there are measuring lines here so you can apportion, we give this much today, and then we'll try to be prepared for more tomorrow. We know more are coming because they heard there is hope and there is life.

Please, I ask you with all my heart to ask God to lead you and enable you to make the largest gift of life you've ever made because you will be giving life as an expression of love. Please do it even as you watch Tammy expressing love, and me and Betty showing the miracle you have become when you share.

Mission field:

Announcer: In rural Africa it is extremely rare to find a mother who has not lost at least one child before their fifth birthday. And what makes their loss so unbearable is the majority of their children's deaths could have been prevented.

Tammy: I mean truly, if I think about it, I don't think I would ever see that. When I come to a country like this and walk into a place like this and we've got this precious little baby laying here—laying here so fragile and so tiny and she is dying because she has no food. It is ridiculous when I think about it. And to also know that there's a solution—there's a solution!

Announcer: Having little or no food can be devastating for a young child whose immune system has not fully developed. The lack of nutrients can lead to severe malnutrition resulting in critical weight loss, skin diseases, mental impairment, and if not treated in time, death.

James: This little child was born in February.

Betty: Died in May.

Open Captions:

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest under five mortality rate in the world. Almost half of those deaths are due to the effects of malnutrition.

End of clip

Studio discussion:

JAMES: Do you think we should just sit here and weep? It certainly merits it. God, I've done lots of that but I've been able to do tears of joy and gratitude because of our viewers who say we will not leave the missionaries empty-handed. We will give them the porridge mix. And we have fed at crisis times when necessary, “we” meaning you, a million children a day.

Right now we're focused on the hardest hit areas, many of them terrible droughts, sometimes war, sometimes just extreme difficulty from the crisis of the economy that's being shattered all over the world in some ways. And right now, we're feeding 350,000 a day. And “we” means all of us because we can't. We can care, we can go, we can send the lives there for over 30 years, Betty and I have spent our lives there, and Betty was never paralyzed over there because she had to ride in jump seats that nearly destroyed her back because she was the smallest one, and the roads are blown up and never repaired because of the misuse of money and leadership.

But we saved lives and changed lives and we win people to Christ. 18 million people's lives have been saved. But Betty, 30 million people have come to Christ who have signed some form of commitment and asked for follow-up. And without you even knowing it, with your overflow, we've translated it into virtually every dialect in Africa, of which there are many and that was very expensive. But because you would give and we said if we get beyond what we need, whatever that is, will go into an equal need.

And we do so many things, we, meaning these viewers, all of you, save lives. And right now, we've got 350,000 located. And I can promise you that will grow because when the word gets out people begin streaming there. And so we're asking you right now for a miracle. We're asking for the greatest outpouring of support perhaps you've ever given. You make a gift of \$1,000, you're going to make it possible for 100 children to be fed—\$1,000! We want to say thank you.

Betty, I'm praying and I've said this for so many years, God, someday let every person watching give something. Could this be that day? Would you please? Could you give \$30 to feed three children for the next months? Could you give \$50 to feed five? Could you give \$100 to feed ten? But Betty, what about feeding with a \$1,000 gift? Would you do that? Please? Would you feed 100 children?

Betty, would you ask our donors to please, please become the miracle somebody prays for and desperately needs?

BETTY: If your heart really wants to be blessed, you'll give to help us feed these children. We have felt more blessed. We went over there to see the need and see what we could do for them. Yes, we could feed them and save their lives but we came away with so much more. I feel like you feel that way when you give toward this feeding program. You give and God blesses, and he blesses you too.

JAMES: It is so blessed to give. There is no greater blessing than becoming a blessing. And no greater blessing than giving life itself, an eternal life because we point them to the way of life—eternal life through Jesus. And because they've seen his love demonstrated they respond.

Please, get your checkbook, bank card, and use it like a check. Dial that number or go online and you make the greatest gift you ever have given even in size because you're giving the greatest gift, you're giving of life.

Last week 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."

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

End of video

Mission field:

Isak: You might have heard me refer before to malnutrition as "the silent killer." That's because it comes like a thief in the night and it steals a child's life away silently, many times an unknown and nameless child. Another small little grave but a life—a life that is lost because of something that we can so simply solve. A life stolen away simply because there wasn't enough food.

The desperation you can see written all over this child because this little body is fighting a fight that chances are, they'll probably lose—a fight of life and death.

It is a tragedy of epic proportion because one in 200,000 of these children die each and every month on the continent of Africa. And it can actually be changed pretty simply. If we can get to these villages where this child comes from and we can get mission feeding into those villages,

what we're able to ensure is that we wind that clock back. We retell that story. Instead of going to bed without a meal that day, that child goes to bed having received an orange bowl filled with the most nutritious food, nourishing its body and saving its life.

That's why we say mission feeding saves lives because it does! But mission feeding doesn't happen just by us being here. Saving this child's life doesn't happen because of us. It happens because of you. Please do whatever you can do and give the very best gift that you can give today. Give the gift of life.

End of video

Studio appeal:

JAMES: Betty, I want us to go home today, and we always give to every program, every, by that I'm talking about whatever it is, water, Rescue LIFE, everything, and of course, feeding. We're going home today, I want us to write another \$1,000 check. And some of you may have given, and I hope you'll consider it at that level. I can't imagine anybody not wanting to save lives when we're able, because of what you do, to put something in that bowl. And what we put in that bowl gives life to the children many mothers are praying so fervently for. It gives the miracle that people desperately hoped for but couldn't imagine happening. And we have watched it happen to save the lives right now of 18 million precious children.

BETTY: You know, James, I was sitting there watching those mothers watching their babies die, and I think, that mother would give her own life to be able to feed her babies, to give them the nourishment they need. But she can't do that. That hurts a mother so much.

I pray that you understand that and as we give today, as you give today, give with an open heart knowing that you're feeding a baby for their mother so she can watch them grow up. Please do that with us.

JAMES: Many mothers walk many kilometers trying to get enough food to make some milk for their babies. They don't have enough to eat. Not only not enough to live, not even enough to

make milk for their babies. God, we've watched mother's love—mother's love poured out, spilled out. When your love in us is the answer so rapidly miraculous.

Listen, love is a miracle—unconditional, redemptive God love, the love that he has expressed through his family, through his body, who are his hands reaching out in love to provide life. Would you be the hands of Jesus? Would you give a cup of soup in his name, for his glory, to give life now and life eternal? Because the missionaries will not only proclaim it, they will first have demonstrated it because of you.

Please go to the phone where people are calling right now to get right with God, to be prayed for, and it is paid for by love. Go to that number. Go online right now. Take your bank card and use it like a check. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*. If you take your bank card, use it like a check. But I'm asking you, please, please may we see the greatest outpouring of love right now that will just spill over and provide miracles everywhere, the miracle of life? We have gifts for you but you are giving the greatest gift. Please do it. And I thank you.

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End of video

Studio good-bye:

JAMES: Well, even as we were waiting for you to call I was thanking God for your call. I was praying for you if you have a need, God meet that need. He can. We care. That’s why we’re here. That’s why we’ll be here every day. Thank you so much for watching Life Today. I want to remind you, year-end gifts, you get tax credit. That saves you money so you have more to give. The greatest gift was the gift of Jesus. How about we make the great gift of life because of the gift He made. Betty and I say thank you. May you have a great next year -- a great new year! And many more. Thanks for helping others have more -- more life. Thank you!