

5/16/25

Week 20: SMF

James & Betty Robison

Randy Robison

Mission Special #2

Studio discussion:

JAMES: Welcome to *Life Today*. I'm smiling big time. Our son is with us, and he's been with the ministry for a long time with Betty and I. But here's the deal. I can't help but think that Betty and I are over 80 now. And we've been doing that ministry, I've been preaching from about let's say two years before we got married, we've been married 62 years. But she's been going with me all over the world. She was with me when I was doing the crusades here. But we've been going for more than 35 years to the mission fields. Right now, Randy has just come back from South Sudan, one of the most deadly places on the planet, where we've seen some of the greatest miracles on the planet that the love of God through people like you has made possible. Randy has just come back from there. I'm just trying to get over the shock of thinking how long we've been putting God's arms around people who are the overlooked, the ones Jesus called "the least of these." The viewers of *Life Today* do want to put God's loving arms around the overlooked. And you have been amazing! You talk about revealing the amazing grace of God, and love of God, and giving the missionaries the ability to be effective, that's you. They're miracle workers, aren't they?

BETTY: They are. And as long as we've been doing that, and a lot of you have been helping us do that, so thank you so much. Please don't stop. We need to continue.

JAMES: Boy, do we ever. Randy, okay. First of all, we had kind of a breakout and some killings that slowed your trip down for a week or more. That's a very volatile place, but then you were able to go on. I've got to ask you, what was it like since you've been going for over 30

years, because you went to Mozambique 30 years ago, but what was it like going in now? Was there anything different about this particular trip?

RANDY: It was both heartbreak and joy because we were able to see some places where mission feeding has been, and not only are we giving these children food, but we've given them a hope and a future. So, I know mission feeding works because I've seen where it's working. But then there's the heartbreak because there are so many areas where we're not working yet, and they desperately need just that simple bowl of food. We went to a malnutrition clinic in a couple of different places, and you see the effects of not having something to eat on a daily basis. It's heartbreaking. It's very hard. It's very hard to try to comfort a mother when she's holding that child, and that child can't even lift its head. You look in their eyes and you see that they're this close to not making it. But I know that we make a difference. I know if we act quickly, we can get there in time. And every day, that's the other thing. When you're there for several days, you see how each day makes a critical difference in the life of a child.

And so my heart is just as yours was all these years ago and has been over the decades, which is we need to rally people to go in right now because it's critical and we need to save their lives. Once we give them something to eat, we put them on a path again for a hope and a future. They're not worried about whether they'll have food today or food tomorrow. If they have food, they can think about other things like okay, how can I give back? And I heard this so many times, how can I give back to my community? How can I support my loved ones? What we do is so much bigger than a simple bowl of food, but that's where it begins.

JAMES: And it gives them stability in their health to the fact that we can place a school there. We've done that. Then we'll feed them at the school, which will keep them coming. There are just so many miracles that are taking place. And right now, I want you to just look in on some scenes that are going to, I think, focus your attention where we need to focus right now.

Transition roll-in: (Malnutrition Everywhere)

ANNOUNCER: Our LOI mission team recently made their way to a remote and desolate area of South Sudan to explore one of the malnutrition clinics we support, and to see firsthand the condition of the children.

ISAK: We're going to walk around now. You'll see the mothers all lined up here with their children. Every single one of these children needs to be screened for malnutrition. Once they screen them, then they'll also see whether there's any other, malaria or anything else like that that they need to be screened for. You look at this little girl here, you can just see how the hair color's changing. That child's not in good condition. I mean, you can see how many mothers and children are here.

RANDY: Isak, the signs of malnutrition are everywhere.

ISAK: Oh, man. Look at this little child. You can just see how skinny this child is. That's just skin and bone. Look at this little arm. I can tell you now when they measure this child, the measuring tape is going to be deeply in the red. But you don't even need a measurement to see. Just look at the condition of this child. This child is literally skin and bone. You can see bone. The hair is already starting to fall out. This child doesn't have enough nutrition to even keep its organs properly functioning. And so what the body does is it sends any nutrients to the brain, to the primary organs, and the skin literally starts to die and starts to peel off. If we don't intervene in this child's life today, immediately, and then continue as sustained intervention for a period of time, this child will not survive.

RANDY: Will you say a prayer for those who are working here? Say a prayer for those who are dying here. And say a prayer for your involvement. We are all in this together. We are saving lives together. This life will most likely be saved. The prognosis will probably be good because she's here. But there are many others that don't have that same hope. You can give it to her. I pray you will do it and do it now.

Studio appeal:

JAMES: Boy, I tell you, it just tears at our heart. Betty, I can remember. Here's the thing I'd like for all of you to understand. I think our viewers need to understand this. We're trying to get out into the remote areas to start the feeding where they're just dying, they're starving to death. And then, that heads them off from not having to come to the clinic. But the clinic is a last-ditch effort when it's obvious the kid's going to die, and they go there. They haven't had any of those clinics to amount to much until we begin helping them do.

When I say "we," Betty, it's a whole lot more than me and you, or even just an organization like Life Outreach. It's people who love God and who love the least of these, who are making it possible to give them hope. So we were sending our son, our team, to go into the remote areas and feed. But also, to go and see the areas that have developed. And you'll see where we put schools in different areas where they were dying, and we've given them just a future. And we feed them in those schools so we're making progress when we put the clinics in.

But most of the time, Randy, the clinics didn't even have much of what they needed. Now we're getting it there. You can see by looking at those people, that even though it was kind of a desperate last hope, many of them were thinking it was something that the love of God, through our viewers, make possible. And it's like looking at a miracle.

RANDY: Oh yeah! With that one particular child, a few more days and that child simply would not have lived. If that clinic wasn't there, the mother would not have a place to take the child to get the diagnosis, the emergency medication in many cases, and then the food program.

What we heard -- I walked into a waiting area because there were several different waiting areas, that's how busy this clinic is. I walked amongst the mothers in one and looking at the children, you see them in various states of malnutrition. And some of the mothers, I asked through an interpreter, how long did it take you to get here? And you hear two hours, four hours, up to eight hours walking, carrying your child. And you know, as a mother, you would do anything! If you had a child that was sick, you would do anything to get that child some medication or to a doctor. If you had a child that you knew, because a lot of these mothers know, they've seen malnutrition before, they know this child looks like that one that died last

year or the year before. Their hearts are heavy. That mother's going to do whatever she can. If it was my child, my grandchild, I would knock down walls, I would climb mountains, I would do whatever it took to get that child some help. If it was my neighbor's child, I would go to the store and I would get groceries. I would call a doctor. I'd pay for it because a child's life is on the line. And right now, children's lives are on the line. That's why we go on television, we come to you. Many of you have responded in the past. We say, "Will you do something?" You don't need to go to Africa to help a child. All you've got to do is pick up the phone, go to the website, and support Mission Feeding. Because if we don't, Mom, Dad, those children that we saw don't have a chance without some help.

BETTY: You know, Randy, it's so true what you said. I do know the heart of a mother. I have experienced the loss of a child. I'm so thankful for the two children that we have still with us, you and Rhonda. But you do -- there is something you can't explain that happens to the heart of that mother. I thank you because you've gone and helped us over and over again with your support for doing what we do to feed these children, to give these children a chance to grow up, to give these mothers the opportunities to hold their children, to nurture their children. Thank you for that. As you've walked alongside us, we need you to stay there right beside us as we minister to these children and give them hope.

JAMES: I need you to try to understand something. It's just true, Betty. God's given me a love for these little children. He's given me a love for the least of these because, you see, I didn't have a home for ten years. I was basically always fatherless, a product of a rape. I didn't have stability, I didn't have security, and I know what that pain was like but I certainly wasn't starving. But when I see the need of the overlooked and the poor, and I'm telling you, I've seen them by the millions, and we've saved millions and millions of lives. There's no question about that. When I say we remember! The "we" is you. We can come in -- if you didn't help, we wouldn't be able to go. We would die of a broken heart because we can't stand to look at that and walk away and not do something when you know that we in the advanced world and here in the United States and in so many of the places you watch us, we at least have the wherewithal and the ability that we can do something.

Think about this, this is amazing. For \$30, you can feed three children for the next months; \$50 you can feed five; \$100, you can feed 10; \$1,000, you can feed 100. Now there's a level at which you can come in. That's what we need right now. It works!

Randy, people do ask this question. Does it work? Do you find that it works because of the faithfulness of the missionaries and you know, they're going to stay, which is why when we start giving and supporting, you don't have to wonder if it's going to continue because we have people there that were sent there by God and they went in obedience to God. It's really a miracle to watch what the love of God does, starting with a missionary that finds them, a missionary that says, I'll plant my life. And then the viewer who sees the need and the missionaries willing to answer the call.

Do you remember when he's talking about the gospel and the power of the gospel of the nations? He says, "How shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? How should they hear unless they preach?" Then get this, bottom line, "How shall they preach unless they're sent?"

Randy, the sender is the key to virtually everything that happens on the mission field.

RANDY: Oh, gosh, yeah. There are dedicated people and I look at some of these people, I sat and had dinner with them after a hard day's work. And I go, how do you do this? So there's definitely that level. But you know what? In Scripture, Jesus cited the giving of a widow when she gave what's called "a mite" in the New Testament. A small amount in human terms. I mean, almost insignificant. Would it make a difference? But that's the one that Jesus noticed. And I think that's critical, because yes, we do have hugely dedicated people, beautiful people in the field, and I want to tell you about a guy in a minute. But it takes that widow's mite, that little bit that each person contributes. The one who never goes to the field, the one who says a prayer and gives whatever they can. All of us together, God put us in community for a reason. He calls us his hands and his feet for a reason. And if those hands and feet aren't moving, people aren't going to see the love of God. But we can do that when we all come together.

JAMES: Who were you going to tell us about?

RANDY: Okay! I need to tell you this. I've got just a couple of minutes, but there is a gentleman. He is a translator for us. His name is Dennis. And we had several translators in different areas, and he was helping us in the clinic in Pibor that you saw a minute ago. He was helping us with some of the mission feeding programs. And that's what he does. Dennis is an adult. He works with us in the mission field. Here's the thing. When Dennis was a little boy, he lived in a village where mission feeding visited. Dennis is alive, helping in the mission field because he got that bowl of soup in his hands as a child. So, we see the impact not just in the short term, but in the long term.

There are children that have come out of the mission feeding program that are doctors, they're politicians, they're nurses. This is the beauty! We have to get in there now for those who are in the shape of some of those you've seen because they won't survive to next week if we're not there. But beyond that, we are building a legacy of generations to pull people out of poverty and the gospel is at the center of all of it. That's, perhaps the most beautiful thing of all.

JAMES: Thank you. Thank you. I think the missionaries would die of a broken heart. The children would die of starvation. Betty and I couldn't have borne it if when we shared the opportunity, and I believe responsibility as believers, if you hadn't responded. We need a great response right now. I want you to watch, but I want you to watch prayerfully. And you ask God, what do you want me to do? And I'll always ask and pray that you will make the largest possible gift that you can. Watch closely.

Transition roll-in: (Uncommon Graves)

RANDY: We arrived in this village this morning. We came here to see a malnutrition clinic. We didn't know that we would watch them carry out this little boy, place him in this hole in the ground, and bury him. It's a hard reality. But in places like this, where food is scarce, where malnutrition runs rampant, graves of two-year-olds are not uncommon.

We asked at the clinic what happened, and they told us that this child, a little boy about two years old, had been eating whatever they could find on the trees and the ground because they had no real food to eat. And as a result of the malnutrition and the wild food, this little boy suffered diarrhea, no doubt dehydration, I would assume. And he died today because of malnutrition. As a father, and now as a grandfather of two grandsons in this age range, not far, if someone could do something to save their lives, I would give anything to do whatever it took to save that child.

There are others right now on the verge of death. So close. We save that child, we see that child for who he or she is, which is the image of God. And will you say as a follower of Christ, or maybe just as someone who cares about other people, I want to do something. I'll do what I can. You can't come over here and save all the children, I understand. But we have people in place right now who just want your support. We shouldn't bury children like this. So please do what God puts on your heart.

Studio appeal:

JAMES: It's tough to watch. Please help us help them! We do know how to do it. We've got the mission workers in place that give their lives, and move their families into the midst of the suffering.

Randy, I saw the two little boys there by you. That's your little grandsons. We have 11 grandchildren and more than 20 great-grandchildren, and it's just beautiful what love does in a family. These people have a family that doesn't even know if they'll be here and be their family in a week or two, sometimes a day. I'm praying everybody watching will help.

RANDY: Yeah! Thank you. It's hard for me to watch that, and obviously, to be there because they show that picture of my grandsons. And that little boy that they buried that day, it was just in a field. It's not even a proper cemetery. He's right between the age of my grandsons. When you see your family, and you understand the pain that these families are going through, it should tear at your heart. Right? It should touch you.

Here's the thing. Scripturally, they're our family. They live on different continents. They look different. Their lives are drastically different. But in God's eyes, that's our family. When our family is suffering, we are called by God to step in and intervene like I would for my own grandsons. Like you would have to save Robin. We would give anything. God's saying right now to the church, your family's suffering and I put you in a position to step in and intervene with love and mercy and action. And, there's been a lot of ruckus amongst the church the last year, the last few years, I believe God is calling us back to the simplicity of the gospel and saying, who is my neighbor? It is that one in need. It's time for us to step up and take care of the need.

JAMES: Jesus made it very clear it's the greatest thing you can do from his point of view. Because he said, "When you touch those that are hungry or thirsty, in bondage or prison, they're sick, they're downtrodden, and you help them, you minister to me. You're not just blessing me, you are benefiting me." That's what your love does when you pour it out on these overlooked, these least, the little ones.

Please, would you right now go and get your bank card and use it like a check? Go get it. Use it like a check. How about a big check? If you write a check, make it to *LIFE* but call us and tell us what you're sending. Really and truly, we've got 350,000 children located that are in desperate need. We have the missionaries there. We have the helpers coming in. Some of them have already arrived. The one thing they're waiting on is to be able to say, we've got the resources for the food, and we need a miracle right now. We're asking you, please, ask God what he wants you to do. And please give the largest gift you can, because you are in fact, giving the greatest gift of all, you are giving life. They are going to first see the power of the life of God in that believer, in you, and in that missionary. They're going to see the love of God, and they will receive the love of God. They will not only have their life saved, they will receive eternal life because of the impact of this mission outreach. You make it possible.

Please go get that bank card, write that check, but call us. Tell us what you're sending in. We need to know. We want to say help is on the way. We want those missionaries to rejoice. Thank you for making it happen.

SMF Cause 2025:

ANNOUNCER: *Right now, across the continent of Africa, children are suffering, facing severe malnutrition, and even death. With food reserves gone, and many areas experiencing severe famine, we urgently need to replenish supplies to keep feeding the 350,000 children who are counting on us.*

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, we'll send you Natural Remedies. This beautifully illustrated book explores ancient nutrition and the health benefits found in God's creation to help you live your best life. With your gift of \$100 or more, please request your "Health and Wellness bundle." This three-book set includes Natural Remedies, as well as Essential Fasting, a simple eating strategy to accelerate weight loss, crush cravings, and reverse aging, and the probiotic diet that gives effective strategies to improve digestion, boost brain health, and supercharge your immune system. Finally, please consider a gift of \$1,000 or more, which will help feed 100 children, and you may request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "Lion of Judah."

Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

JORDAN: Hi, I'm Jordan Rubin, and for over two decades, my wife Nicki and I have been supporting the ministries of *LIFE*. With any gift to mission feeding, you will transform the lives of 350,000 children in Africa by giving them nutritious food and a hope for the future. With your gift, you'll receive a powerful wellness bundle, which can bring the power of health and

nutrition into your own home. Transform the lives of thousands and your own family. Do it today.

Studio good-bye:

JAMES: Well, I want to thank you. We have some wonderful gifts for you to bless you in your health by Jordan Rubin. He's the one who started, and we helped him with that, with the Makers Diet and the *Natural Remedies* and *Ancient Nutrition*, things to make you healthy. We only want to put something in your life that builds your life. You're as important to us, and God, as those little overlooked ones. That's how much he loves you. We want to be a blessing to you.

Would you please make that great gift of life? Randy, thank you for going. Aren't you excited to know that *LIFE Outreach* and the mission outreaches are going to continue beyond belief until Jesus comes?

RANDY: You know what you and Peter began so many years ago is continuing, it's growing, it's having an impact. I know the commitment of everyone here at LIFE Outreach International is to continue to save the lives of those children in desperate need. So, thank you for what you've started, and thank you for what we're going to continue.

JAMES: You're the ones that made it happen. You are the sender. Thank you so much. May God bless you because he's sure blessing through you. We say thanks on behalf of those whose lives you've touched. Thank you.