

5/19/25

Week 21: SMF

James & Betty Robison

“Carried by God”

**Studio discussion:**

**JAMES:** Welcome to *Life Today*. I'm James Robison, Betty and I welcome you. I never dreamed that at age 81, I would be saying to you who are watching us, and whatever you do, don't you miss this show. Don't miss anything this week. I hope you don't miss anything from now on, but I believe that God is about to move us into the most effective time in our lives.

Now, think about this. We've been married 62 years; hard to believe. No, you don't even look close to that. Okay. But here's the thing. We are really in love with one another, more deeply every day. And really, our love for God seems to deepen. We've had a pretty incredible walk with God. I'm going to be talking to you about how my journey started, and how the journey went in ministry. I just pray that you will see the miracle of what God has done with what appeared to be a totally impossible situation. You may feel like you have an impossible situation, or at least a very difficult one, or you have family or friends or neighbors or someone you care about, or somebody that's come to you for help and that you are concerned about. I'm going to be, for the rest of my life, Betty, the two of us together, and all of our guests, we're going to be seeking to download the healing message, the message of transforming truth to you every day and to the people you care about. I believe God has shown me that this message is going to go to the ends of the earth. So I'm going to be asking you to join us. Raising funds is always a big challenge but doing it overseas for the poor and the overlooked and those who are truly the least of these, it just took a miracle move of God on people's hearts, which he did. And people have helped us, literally, save tens of millions of lives from physical death, and then lead tens of millions of people to Christ, where we have reached out and put the loving arms of God around people who are in desperate need. And you, the viewers of *Life Today*, made it happen.

And those of you who have never been involved, I believe when you hear what I'm sharing with you today and the next days, you're going to spend the rest of your life helping us share his life and his love and his transforming truth with the whole world. I believe the gospel of the Kingdom is going to be preached in every nation, which he says will happen before he comes. The gospel of the Kingdom, not just a gospel, the gospel of the kingdom, the will of God being done on earth through his family, through the body of Christ, the church before he comes. That means, I believe, we are going to be moving together to impact the whole world with the power of the gospel of the Kingdom. So you don't want to miss these messages.

Now Betty, you know many people don't know that I lived with the pastor who was your pastor until I was five years old. My mother was raped when she was 40 years old as a home nurse. She had never had a baby. She had been married; I think she married very young because her parents died when she was very young. I have an idea she married around 15, probably. That marriage lasted maybe five, six, or seven years, and she adopted a son, but she never had a baby. She wasn't supposed to be able to have one. She was in this home taking care of an elderly man, and the alcoholic son raped her, and she conceived and she was pregnant. Now that's a mess a woman just doesn't want. Most of them don't know how to deal with it but abortion seemed to be the best way out. So, she went to a doctor to have me aborted because I was the baby. The doctor said, "I will not abort that baby." And it's thunder. But somehow, in a state of shock, she went home and said, "I went back to the house where I was taking care of the elderly man, sat down on the screened porch, and began to pray. And God said, 'You have this baby, and this baby will bring joy to the world.'" So when she heard that, "Have the baby; the baby will bring joy to the world," she just knew, I'm going to have a little girl. I will name her Joy, which she did. She named the baby Joy. She changed it when she realized I was a boy. And the way she changed it, she said, "I was praying and I thought of the disciples, Peter, James, and John, and I just liked James. And I named you, James."

Well, she couldn't take care of me very well, but she did her best. Reverend and Mrs. Hale were crushed that I was taken from them. Betty, the way I was taken from them is my mother showed up, she would come and take me sometimes, and we would go and I would stay with her. But she would invariably take me and leave me with somebody I didn't even know while she went

through her day. I can remember so many times going over and just putting my little face up against the window. I would stand there for hours wondering if my mother was coming back to get me. Betty, I think that was one of the highest impact points in my life that has helped lead me to the children that have been left and abandoned by their families and they don't have anybody looking after them. They'll say, "We don't think anybody's coming back." Well, I knew what that felt like. So many people are torn by that and we become the ones that go and get them.

Well, I'm telling you, I didn't think she was coming back, but she did. But one day she came to Reverend and Mrs. Hale's home, and she said, "I'm taking you with me now. We're going to go. We're going to go to Houston." I mean, from Houston to Austin, which is 175 or 180 miles. She dragged me out from under a bed and we left. And Betty, my mother had no money. She wouldn't take any help. And we hitchhiked 175 miles from Houston to Austin. I want you to see this. This is what I carried. This is the suitcase that I carried all my belongings, everything I had that I could take at age five was in this little suitcase. I've kept it in my office. Many times, people come in and stare at it and say, "What in the world is that?" And I'll explain to them that that was the suitcase that I hitchhiked and had at my side on that entire journey. Betty, we rode in all different kinds of cars and we rode in a cattle truck and sat on the feed bags. When we got into town, it was an illegal hitchhike that somebody gave us, a mail truck, a US mail truck picked us up and we sat in the back with the mail. Well, he took us into Austin. So that was my journey.

For the next ten years, I didn't have a home that faced a street. Betty, I think you saw one or two of the places I took you when I knew I was never going to go back and stay back, went home to get some more clothes. It was very sad. But anyway, I was away from that home with a broken heart because I loved my mother, she loved me, but she didn't lead as well as I needed to be led.

Betty, I never dreamed that when I met you, and I remember it so well. I remember the first time that I saw you. I just thought you were so sweet. I saw Betty that night, and you were dressed up with a nice fitting skirt up in front of me, a dress. I thought, boy, that girl really has a beautiful figure. And then you turned around and you gave me this smile. And I know you've

seen it. I had no idea God would use you to change my life like you have. Your sweetness, your love, your purity, your innocence totally changed me. I know God used me to encourage you that God could use you. So, would you say the coming together of James and Betty is nothing short of a miracle?

**BETTY:** Absolutely! It was truly ordained by God because I had no idea of the background you'd had until after we started dating. I had heard the pastor mention you every once in a while, "Just pray for James." I just didn't have any idea of your story. Because even though we didn't have a whole lot, I had a mom and a dad and siblings that we were together. I knew my mom and dad would be there at night. You never knew that. And so, I had a stability that James didn't have. But when I met him, God was so -- he had it so planned out for our lives to meet and to become one, James, through marriage. You were instrumental in leading me to the Lord. Somebody who grew up in church all her life. You've heard me tell this story before, but that's how I came to know Jesus was watching him in his relationship with Jesus. I'd never seen anyone have a closeness to God like he did. It just blessed me so much, and it brought me to him, James. So, thank you!

**JAMES:** Well, I want to thank Betty, and thank God, but I also want to thank all of you who've watched me and Betty and all of our guests on television. The journey we've been on is nothing short of miraculous because Betty was very shy, and I was very shy. They always said I was the shyest person on the planet, and I think I agree. When God called me to preach and I asked some of the men in the church if they thought God could use me, they said an absolute no. There was no way anybody as shy as me could be used.

But God totally changed me instantly and filled me with a holy boldness that nothing could slow down. He gave me the ability to think clearly, to absorb the word, and to release it in such a clear fashion that it impacted and transformed the people who were listening, and they began to listen by the millions.

So, Betty and I were married. I was in ministry because you were the one that God used to get me where I had to sit on the platform during a youth revival and listen to a 16-year-old

preacher, Daniel Lester, preach every night. I realized he had memorized entire chapters in the Bible. I had a few verses memorized, but I started memorizing scripture that week. By the end of the week on Friday night, God called me to preach. That was the thing that shocked everybody. And then what shocked everybody was the way I preached the first time I got up and preached. From then on, it was just nothing but the flow of God. Billy Graham found me by the time I was 19 and told me I was the most effective he'd ever heard, and he encouraged me to do citywides everywhere. We did 600 citywide crusades. I was gone from my family way too much.

But here's what began to happen later in life. After 600 cities, 600 citywide crusades, and millions of people coming to Christ, God led me to suddenly look over, Betty, and see the least of these, to see the overlooked. He led me to say, Betty, I've got to go to the Third World. And we did. I left, I went to South Africa, and I went with this mandate when I went: Get them to stand against apartheid, get them to stop attacking Mandela. He is a friend. He is a great man. Something has happened while you've had him in that prison. It was a miracle because I was preaching to South Africa and it had an impact. The Zulu chief said he was going to kill 5 to 7 million people if the new powers came into place. God allowed me, with a man near Australia, to pray and to send a message to him. This great Christian man wrote one of the greatest letters I've ever read in my life. It changed Buthelezi where he didn't attack at all and millions were saved. And something began to happen. They let Mandela out. They saw that he had a forgiving spirit. Something positive began to take place. But, Betty, after going to South Africa, that's when it just opened the doors for us to go all over the world because it was there that I met a missionary, Peter Pretorius, who showed me the starving. He said, "You're seeing the starving, but you haven't seen anything yet. I want you to go into Mozambique and third-world countries, and I want you to see what we're dealing with." And we did. Betty, do you remember the first time you went with me. Were you scared?

**BETTY:** Just a little bit. I clung to you real closely.

**JAMES:** You did. Do you remember us sitting up on a pile of dirt where children were, just by the thousands, and they were dying -- starving. We were sitting on a dung pile.

**BETTY:** Yeah, I was going to say it wasn't dirt.

**JAMES:** Everything smelled bad so you couldn't tell. They'd piled it up and packed it. But here was this little boy down in front of him, and he had a cup. We'd been giving him soup, nourishing soup. I started talking to the little guy. I asked him if he liked it. Somehow, he could tell what was going on. He said, "Yah!" And that little buddy became my little buddy. Somehow, Betty, we connected with him, and we began to connect with children all over the Third World who were starving.

We began to ask our viewers if they would help us, and Betty, they did. We did that, and continue to do it, but we started and we went for over 20 years steady, still going. I just saw my mission director just before I came in here. He had just come back from Africa and other third-world countries that were actually in the Asian nations. We are just putting God's arms around so many people because of you. But if you'll hear what I'm going to be saying and sharing with you the next few days, we're not only going to get the arms of God around the hungry and the thirsty in third-world countries, we're going to put the loving arms of God around the whole world. Because with your help, we're going to preach the gospel of the kingdom to the whole world.

Betty, you know that God birthed in my heart a river flowing like a river of transforming truth, like the river of love and the river of life. And that we wanted to release life and love and truth, redemptive love, redemptive truth in a stream, steady, that would be supported by people who knew that God has the only truth, the only answer, the only way to life, and he offers it to everyone. We are supposed to demonstrate the gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world. The gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all nations before Jesus comes.

Betty, I'm praying and I'm asking every one of you watching us, you may have never become a supporter of *LIFE Outreach*. If you are a supporter, I want you to up it right now because we're about to double the outreach if you'll help us. We're going to have to have your help for us to continue expanding the feeding and the water drilling, the wells, all of it. Right now, we believe

we're going to see the greatest move of God in the history of the world and the greatest awakening in history.

Father, thank you for Betty being used to help transform my life. Thank you that I was able to help her. Thank you that we've been able to help millions of people. But now more than ever, help people to say, we're going to stand together with you and deliver the gospel of the Kingdom, in Jesus' name.

I want you to listen to Tammy Trent. You love her. I want you to look at the love you're going to see right here. I want you to know you're the answer to starving people. You're the hope. They don't have to keep losing their children. Please watch prayerfully.

**Transition roll-in:** (Be an Answer to Prayer)

**Open Captions**

>> "If you want your prayers answered, be an answer to someone else's prayer."—

James Robison

**TAMMY:** When I'm on a mission trip I can't help but feel the pain a mother has when she sees her child suffering because there's no food for her.

**Open Captions**

>> As a mother, I feel like a failure because two of my children died. It starts with a lack of food. Then malnutrition leads to other terrible diseases. It's really hard for me to think back to the times when they passed away.

**TAMMY:** This is Armita. Can you begin to imagine the crushing impact of losing your children because you couldn't feed them? It was devastating for Armita but she knows she must carry on for her other children. How does she manage it? Through fervent prayer.

### **Open Captions**

>> Jesus is the only hope we have. When we go to sleep, we pray, Jesus, thank you for sustaining us for another day.

**TAMMY:** I would love to tell you Armita's story of losing her children because the lack of food is rare—but it is not! These women by show of hands shared how many children they each had lost. They well know the same heartache as Armita. Mandelena lost five children. Yngo, two children. Margarita, one child. Julia, three children.

One thing all these precious mothers have in common through prayer is they put their hope for tomorrow in the hands of Jesus. My heart is always moved by all the precious mothers I meet here in Africa. And I'm especially moved because I know we share the same hope in Jesus and the way he provides. Today, you and I have the opportunity to be his hands and a direct answer to these mothers' prayers. God is truly on the move in Africa and I invite you to be a part of it.

### **Open Captions**

>> "If you want your prayers answered, be an answer to someone else's prayer."—  
James Robison

### **Studio appeal:**

**JAMES:** That is one of the most important little phrases I ever shared, “If you want your prayers answered, seek to be an answer to someone's prayer.” Betty, as I watch those mothers, we know what it is to lose a child. And it was because of a disease that you would have done anything to help cure. But we are not dealing with a disease here, we're dealing with the lack of food, and we have a perfect cure for it. And Betty, we've done it for millions of people because our viewers have helped us feed these children. When I look at those mothers, I know how much they love their babies. Their babies are the greatest joy they have over there. They don't have a lot of entertainment, a lot of fun stuff in the impoverished areas where they live. Their little children are their joy -- and then they lose that. It is almost more than we can bear, except



that we know what love does. Love transforms everything. We can turn it all around in those villages. Betty, I'm just praying that every single person watching will say, I want to stop that. I want to make the miracle that woman longs for happen.

**BETTY:** Well, you know, James, God opened up our hearts to go across the seas and see the needs there. Because we were in, so to speak, our own world, the surroundings around us. But God said I want to show you something. When we walked into those other countries, my heart opened up so big. I thought, God, thank you for showing me that I can help make a difference in these little children's lives just by giving them food. That's all they need. That's all the mother wants is food for her babies.

So, I pray your heart has been opened up today even bigger to see that you can be a part of that. God has so much for you to do as his children, to bless other children.

**JAMES:** I'm praying that you will help us feed 350,000 children that we have found, and their families, that are basically facing starvation. We have the key! It's to get the food to them that we're able to do. But we have to be able to pay for it. A gift of \$30 will feed three children for the next months, \$50 will feed five, \$100 will feed ten, and \$1,000 will feed 100. Could you feed 100? Maybe it's the first time you've ever helped. How about helping five children? Or ten children for a \$50 or \$100 gift? I'm always going to ask you to think big. Think above what you might normally think because we're thinking about life itself. These people will see Jesus in these missionary families. These missionaries are the most beautiful example of Jesus I've ever seen. They move into the pit of hell to bring heaven, and they do it. And they bring their whole families and plant their lives there. This is the reason we know when we start helping these people, they're going to simply move from one area of need to the other. And as long as they've got the food, they're going to transform the lives of so many.

Would you right now go get your bank card and use it like a check? Make the biggest gift you can. If you write a check, make it to *LIFE*. But call us and tell us what you're sending.

God, Please give us a host of people who help us today. God, we need those helpers and we thank you for them, in Jesus' name.

This is a very important day for many reasons and for many precious people. Please make the gift God puts on your heart. Thank you so much.

**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.

**Field appeal:**

**RANDY:** I can't imagine having to walk two hours. But this clinic here is the place they bring their children. They're sick. The mothers don't know what to do. They have no other place to go. But because of you, we have this place, this malnutrition clinic. We need you to stand with us as mission feeding goes into areas and goes beyond just the feeding, but into the malnutrition clinics, the care that saves lives, stabilizes lives, stabilizes villages, regions, changes a country. Of course, we do it all in the name of Jesus Christ always.

Go online. Make the best gift you can. Your gift right now will save lives and it is desperately needed.

**Studio good-bye:**

**JAMES:** Thank you so much! I hope many of you have joined us today on this incredible journey to put God's arms around the least of these. Betty, I'm believing so many are going to join us in streaming truth, transforming truth to the whole world, the message of the Kingdom. Thank you so much. God bless you. He's blessing through you when you extend his hands. Thank you.