

4/15/14

Week 16: Mission: Rescue Life
Charlotte Gambill

Betty: Thank you so much for joining us on *LIFE Today*. I'm Betty and this is James.

James: This is such a great audience out here. I feel like we ought to just interview every one of them.

We've got someone here today to teach us how to speak proper English. When you come to be with a Texan, and a couple of Texans and speak proper English to us, it's something like beautiful foreign language. I'm sure they think it is the really heavenly language.

And we do have quite a communicator and just a wonderful person, Charlotte Gambill. She is a gift from God.

Listen, she not only ministers there, the truth of God, all over Great Britain but she comes here on a regular basis, goes to Australia. She is a good friend of a lot of our friends. I want to tell you who she's been traveling with who is quite a singer and quite a communicator.

Would you welcome Charlotte Gambill to *LIFE Today*?

Charlotte, we're glad to see you. This is *The Turnaround God: Discovering God's Transformational Power*. I've talked about you ministering the word all the time and teaching and sharing and so forth. So what kind of a turnaround did you experience that would lead to this title? Or are you just watching everybody else that needs to turnaround?

Charlotte: No, I've needed a few turnarounds. I think the book came out of really an awareness from my own journey but also as a pastor, so many people that I would pastor and sit with and talk to that really needed to see God turn something around, but actually had settled halfway through a turn. It's so easy when you are praying and believing God and sometimes you get that little breakthrough but it is not the full breakthrough; it is not the miracle that you really believed for. But we so easily settle

and we go, "Well, that will do." We serve a God who is more than enough and yet settle for less than.

So I began to believe my own journey when I was told that I would never have children. Well, God, maybe it will happen, maybe it won't happen. And I felt God say, "This is where you have to put into practice what you believe. Do you believe I'm the God that can turnaround this situation?"

I thought that God would answer my prayer and we would become pregnant within the next month because all good women I had a plan and God needed to fit with my plan. But when he didn't I just got frustrated and actually got angry with God. I was like, "God, you need to come through for me now. I'm a good girl. Help me out."

I really began to realize that actually now was the journey of me actually putting into practice what I believed. Did I believe that actually God was going to come through? Or did I have a time frame that I was asking God he had to fit into? I discovered that God does suddenlies and God does slowlies. And for me, I went on a five year slowly journey. God took me on a process in that journey of getting the eyes off me and actually the eyes on to the other people I would pick up on the journey.

I was reminded of that story of Lazarus when Lazarus said to his friend Jesus, his family said, "Come, he's sick." And Jesus says, "I'm coming!" And then he waits. Then he dies! And you're like that's not a very good friend!

[Laughing]

James: He was late! Jesus, you're late!

Charlotte: But when you read that story it is interesting what happens because Jesus then decides, now we're going to go to Lazarus. And he says to the disciples, "And you're going to get new grounds for believing." So straight away someone else is going to get a miracle on the way to Lazarus' miracle.

Then he turns to Martha who has been the control freak -- that would be me, that's usually me, trying to tidy up for Jesus and do a good P.R. campaign. "Jesus didn't show up but it's okay." She'd organized the whole funeral and everything and then Jesus looks at Martha and says, "Martha, do you actually believe who I am and what I can do?" And now she is challenged with her beliefs.

Then he gets to the basket case, the emotional basket case, Mary, who is just weeping all the time. He says to her, "Hey, it is time to stop weeping."

And then he gets to where Lazarus is buried, and I love this part, and he says to the whole crowd that have gathered, the ones, the naysayers, the ones who said, "Where is your Jesus now?"

And he says on account of this crowd that have gathered, "Lazarus, come forth!" And all of the sudden there is a miracle for Lazarus but there's a long way around that's happened to the miracle and the disciples, Martha, Mary and the crowd all got a miracle too.

I think that's what sometimes happens with God. Sometimes it is suddenly and sometimes is slowly. For five years I met people in waiting rooms I would have never met. They were waiting to see a doctor like I was. I met people that couldn't conceive that I would have never met and had new empathy for them. I threw baby shower parties for every pregnant woman in our church because God told me sow the seed you want to see in your own life. I prayed for people that I would never have prayed for, and five years later we had a baby and we called her Hope because we never gave up. But she came the long way around.

James: Isn't that beautiful?

[Applause]

Is that the end the baby story?

Charlotte: No, we had a second, Noah Brave; we had a son a few years later and they're two amazing gifts from God. They're two signs of God being able to turn anything around.

There's a scripture that says, "Sing O barren woman," which is a turnaround action. When you're barren you don't want to sing. It is like scripture is telling us, do the thing that will turn your circumstance around. You can cry or you can find a song in the midst of your barrenness.

I think in all of our journeys, every single one of us, we have things where we want to see God turn something around, whether it is something personal or something in our community. I just wanted to compel people to say, "Don't sit down in the disappointment. Don't stop at the grief. Don't camp out at the loss. Don't stop where

you feel you were rejected." Understand that God is -- it is like turning a car. Sometimes it takes one turn; sometimes it takes five or six maneuvers to turn that vehicle around. In our communities it is not going to be one act of kindness, it is going to be many that will turn people around. So for me, the book became a way of writing that message of hope. But also for challenging people, maybe you've stopped too soon. Maybe you're not fully turned into the things and into the places that God wants to take you.

Betty: And God's way is the best way. If we try in our own -- try to get our own way we may miss out on some of the greatest blessings God has in store for us. So we need to be patient and continually trust him.

Charlotte: We're not very good at being patient; right? I'm not very good at it either.

Betty: No, we usually want it yesterday.

James: I think it is interesting how you met the person that you've been ministering with over here. Tell everybody who it is you've been traveling with who is a gifted musician, singer and how you all connected.

Charlotte: She's a pretty good singer. My dearest friend, Natalie Grant is who you're referring to. I always say I must be extra work for heaven because God always has to help me get the decision right; has to speak, interrupt my life on several occasions, how I met my husband is another great story.

But how I met Natalie was nine years ago I was in a conference in California. I was just in the middle of worship and I just heard God speak to me in an audible voice and said the strangest thing. He said to me, "Open your eyes, turn around, the girl at the back of the auditorium in the orange sweater and jeans has to do with your destiny." It was so odd.

I was so not brave that I nudged my mum who was traveling with me and went, "Mum, turnaround and tell me is there someone in the back of the church with an orange sweater and jeans?"

And she said, "Yes, there is! How did you know?"

I went, "Don't ask, but she's to do with my future."

I thought it was an usher on the church door. I had never heard of Natalie Grant. The pastor of the church asked me would I get up and take the offering; and while I was up there, introduce the guest singer? To which I said, "Yes, but I don't know who she is."

He said, "Just read this information out."

As I began to read it, the girl in the orange sweater and jeans began to walk forward. I began to cry. She began to cry. I remember embracing her going, "I'm so sorry. I don't normally do this." Because she then had to sing with tears down her face and I just got off the stage. And we became fast friends.

She was going through infertility; I'd just been through it so our journeys were very similar. Several years later, many vacations together, becoming dearest friends, God spoke and said, "Excuse me, I did not go to all of that trouble just so you two could go on vacation together."

[Laughing]

"You're supposed to dare to do something for me together in ministry." And that's how our Dare to Be event was born. So yeah!

James: That's beautiful! So you've been traveling all over the world together?

Charlotte: We just started -- we only just started doing Dare to Be last January in America and just did a set of dates -- just gone.

James: What do you call it? Say the title.

Charlotte: Dare to Be.

James: And if you -- when you go, may I ask you this? Do you have a prayer concern for the nation we live in that we love and the church here?

Charlotte: More than a prayer concern, I guess -- I mean I'm married to an American so I understand -- I'm bilingual.

[Laughing]

I speak both languages. You did make up certain words like "y'all" but I'll forgive you.

But I think more an observation maybe, I would say that I've noticed between the state of church in England and the state of church in America; I think in England, we have a very different problem. Our situation is that people don't know about God, don't care to know about God, and they certainly don't want to step foot in a church. It is anti-cultural. It's not something people do. My kids get bullied at school because they go to church. It's like a foreign concept, is church.

So our problem, if you want to call it a problem, yet to me, it is a gift because it is very clear who is not saved. So our mission field is very black and white for us.

I think in America, what I've observed, not everywhere but in some places, is that everybody says they're a Christian and everybody says they're a believer but then some people that say they're a Christian or say they go to church are not necessarily being the church. So we have a lot of religion and not necessarily relevance to people that want a gospel that is real, in America.

I found that the two problems, ours is that actually getting people to want to come into the church and know what the church is about, and in America sometimes it is a case of actually getting people to get out of the church and make a difference in the world in which they're called to be.

I think our biggest love language in our church because our church is known throughout our community as the place as the light on the hill, we get referred to because our church is quite high upon a hill. But the thing we've used to communicate the gospel is benevolence, is the acts of kindness, it is going into the community, it is being Jesus. It's going to where people have a need. And like at Christmas, we went into our communities and found out, what's the greatest need? The greatest need was people were choosing between heating their home and feeding their families. So we said, "Okay, let's go and pay for people's heating bills over Christmas."

I think that's what we have to demonstrate back in the U.K. more than ever is that actually we're not trying to sell a religion, we're not trying to tell you that we judge you, we're just trying to love you. And that's the most powerful language you can use anywhere.

James: And relationship is the thing that people have missed by substituting religion for it, and going through the pretense and the practice and the motions without really having the relationship. Can't you tell that this girl has got a relationship with God that's real? I mean it's vibrant!

[Applause]

Your husband, now you say he's a U.S. citizen. Is he happy about...

Charlotte: I could find no one in England to take me.

[Laughing]

James: When you talked about difficult things, has there been many things facing him that have been difficult other than y'all having a child or what about places to live and where you go and all of that?

Charlotte: How I met my husband was a miracle. I'll tell you that story. It's funny. I was 16, my husband is 8 years older than me, and when I was 16 in the church my father was a pastor of the church we were in and my mother, and they were out of town. So like a good 16 year old girl, this cute drummer called Steve Gambill came through town with a band and I was like my parents are away so I'm just going to flirt all weekend; I'm just being honest.

[Laughing]

I just took the opportunity.

James: A little witness for Jesus.

Charlotte: Yeah, I was. Because I was the pastor's kid, I could get the schedule of where the band would be so I showed up at every supper, every dinner, I was just there. I was like omnipresent all weekend. He paid me no attention whatsoever. None! Until the Sunday when they were about to leave and he said, "Excuse me, could I have a word?" I'm like, finally, you're slow, but okay!

[Laughter]

So we sit down and he says, "I don't know who you are. But I have a word from God for you."

I was like, "For real? I just want your cell phone number," is what I'm thinking -- I didn't say that but that's what I was thinking.

And so he said to me, "God's told me to tell you to stop being a flirt."

I did exactly what you just did! I drew a breath just like that. I was like, "Okay."

And he said, "And God told me to tell you he's going to use you to reach millions of people from an early age and he can't afford for you to have your heart broken because you're going to need your heart intact for the ministry he's called you to do. And God also told me to tell you he's going to bring you the right guy at the right time."

And then he left town. I never saw him again -- for four years. Four years later, I went to America to do a summer camp with a church in Saint Louis. At that time, Steve, I didn't know this, he was playing for the Saint Louis symphony and he was based in Saint Louis. I went to a barbecue at the church and who walks through the door but Steve Gambill? He has no idea it's me. I have every idea it's him.

[Laughter]

Girls remember those things. And then we ended up hanging out; we ending up meeting together. And then he said, "Do you want to go for coffee?"

I thought, "Yeah, I'll go for coffee."

And over coffee I said to him, "You do know we've met before."

He said, "No, we haven't. You must have me mistaken."

I'm like, "Oh, no! We have met before." And I said, "Do you remember being in England four years ago and telling a girl not to flirt?"

And he went bright red, put his head down and I carried on. "Yeah, you told her not to flirt. You told her that God was going to use her. And you told her that she had to wait for the right guy, the right time."

He said nothing. And then he looked straight back up over his Starbucks coffee mug and he said, "Well, it was a word from God. And I am the right man and now's the right time."

[Laughter]

See, you love him already; right? You love him already!

James: I love your whole story!

Charlotte: But you know the funniest bit is? And then just as a comeback line I said to him, "Well, this is not going to work because I'm moving to University in England in three weeks time. I'm leaving home, moving to go study so I'm not into long distance relationships."

He goes, "You're not going to believe this, but I'm moving to England in three weeks to go to Bible school." We both moved to the same town in the same week.

James: Is that great? I love it!

[Applause]

That is a turnaround turnaround turnaround God! And the stories you tell in here are marvelous. You have just gotten a little foretaste. If someone wanted to access the web site where you're going to be speaking, where would they go?

Charlotte: If they want to know about Dare to Be, they'd go to Dare to Be Event or they can just go to CharlotteGambill.com and they can find it there.

James: Dare to Be or Charlotte Gambill.

I love you and appreciate you; love your spirit, and I thank God for Natalie. Everything we do we're able to do because you pray, because you believe and you receive the message, the testimonies, the hope, the guests that we present, the wonderful stories of the transforming power of God. And then our viewers, the beautiful thing is, they not only appreciate the guests and seem to like -- I know they love Betty, they may put up with me but they love what we do and they make it possible. I want to thank you. I want to thank you for making this program possible, the outreaches of *LIFE*. To think of the millions of people --

I told you several years ago we quit counting at 20 million people who had said they've trusted Christ. That's a lot of people -- the millions of people that you've given fresh water to, that you have fed, the millions of children's lives that have been saved with the outreaches, the children's homes and *LIFE* Centers that have been built -- all because of you. Let me show you something. This is something when we first shared it with you, we did not know if you would really watch. We were concerned you might

look away but you didn't. You looked through the eyes of Jesus and you became the arms of God for the most desperate and helpless people, perhaps on this earth, and you gave them hope. Listen to their heart cry because you're the answer and you are so often.

On the mission field

>> I know I once was a child.

Some still say that I am.

But what I remember of it has been smothered by the darkness I know now.

Look at me! Not past me!

My life is not mine.

I'm owned yet I'm disowned.

I can hardly breathe.

My mind is shattered into a thousand pieces -- shattered!

There have been times, eight times a day at the hands of strangers -- over 2500 times this year -- at the hands of sick strangers.

Please... someone rescue me!

Put me back together.

End of clip

In the studio

James: And by the grace of God, we have, and we will reach as far as we're enabled by you to reach, as many as we're enabled to reach. Yes, Betty and I care, and when we saw the plight on the mission field we asked God almost 25 years ago, "Do you want to us stay here right in the midst of all this suffering and pain?" And we were ready.

And God spoke through the missionaries and said, "Please don't. Please go back so we can stay if you'll get them to help us." I did not know if the viewers of the television ministry that we'd been a part of for many years, since 1968 -- and we had started doing the servant role to help others -- I did not know if you would help with mission outreaches, and I certainly didn't know if you would help with that one. But you have.

And so when that girl says, "Help me -- don't look past me, please rescue me" we're able to say "yes."

Betty: Yes, we are. First of all thank you so much if you've been one of those that has joined with *LIFE Outreach* to make the difference in the lives of these precious children. As I was watching and listening to that precious young girl I felt like she was saying, "Please, someone make it stop! Make it stop! Someone care about me. Someone notice me in a way that will give me hope and strength and get me out of this situation that I'm in, and I'm destined to stay in if someone doesn't reach out. So thank you for helping us if you've helped before. If this is a first time, God bless you! Please help us help these children!

James: We've been able to save because of you, we'll be able to make it stop but we've been able to say something else because of Jesus and because of his love we'll be able to make it start, a new life. So we rescue, we reach out, we rescue them and we restore them. We're teaching these girls, once we get them out, and we need to build a safe house right now in Cambodia, part of the expansion of the outreaches to many countries right now.

Some of them we can't tell you even where they are because it would lead to the termination of missionaries. Even in Thailand right now, we're not able to show the faces of the children anymore that have been rescued and they're in our homes. As a matter of fact, they're cutting right now... You can see the children singing; we used to be able to show you their faces. We can't now because sometimes people will hurt them just because they were rescued or head off before the predator got them. So we're working in touchy situations and we need a safe house: \$350,000.

This is the last week. I've prayed God, give us 350 people who will give \$1,000. Now that would be the answer but it may be that somebody give several thousand. Then think about this, \$128 is the average cost to rescue one of these girls. Some of our friends said, "We'll match that gift. If you'll help rescue one, we'll double it and make it two. Or if you give \$64 we'll have enough, we'll have the \$128."

We have some gifts to send you this last week to say thank you for your help. We have the beautiful glass sculpture, "The Blessing" to send to those of you who will help us build that safe house. Please, this last week, let's be an answer to that girl's heart cry. We'll make it stop. We'll add to it; we'll make a new start for you because of the love of God. Take your bankcard, please do it, please move beyond just watching and take action. Be the hands of Jesus, reach out. Make the gift. Use that card like a check or

write a check to *LIFE* but call us and say, "I'm putting it in the mail." Would do you that?

You can go online, and many people do now, thank God for that! Go online, LifeToday.org and you'll be able to make the gift there.

Father, I thank you for every person moved by you moving in obedience to share your love. Thank you for the viewers that see through your eyes and express your heart; in Jesus' name.

Thank you for expressing the heart of God. Thank you for making it stop for girls like the one you heard. Thanks for making that gift.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Human trafficking -- it's impossible to believe but at this very moment innocent children, many very young, are being sold and forced into sexual slavery and exploited in every way imaginable. And someone must save them!

With your help today we can reach, rescue, and restore their hope for a better future. And now a miracle opportunity of a matching grant means your gift of \$128 to help rescue a child will be matched to help rescue two children.

Your \$64 gift will be matched to help rescue one child from the horrors of human trafficking. This year, with your help, we also hope to build a safe house in Cambodia where young rescued girls can find safety, loving care, and direction for a new life. The cost of this safe house is \$345,000.

With your gift, please request *My Daily Gift*, a beautiful new devotional describing the great love of God, who treasures you more than you can imagine.

With your gift of \$128, which today will help rescue two children, you'll receive the side-by-side Bible, which includes the easy-to-read New International Version and the Amplified text with its additional words and insights.

Finally, please prayerfully consider a gift of \$1,000 to help establish the safe house in Cambodia and you may request our 2014 commemorative glass sculpture, "The Blessing."

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

End of clip

In the studio

James: Betty and I just say thank you! Thank you! If you'd like to have, and you know we have the other gifts we're sending, we always want to say thank you and bless you. And I know none of you give to receive, you give to give because that in itself is a blessing.

If you'd like to have Charlotte's book after hearing her, and you realize she is writing like you are hearing her, and you're going to enjoy that. No telling who else you'll meet and hear a message from. We'll be glad to send it to you. You help us rescue those girls and we'll gladly send it to you if you'd like to have it.

Would you say thanks to Charlotte again for being such a blessing?

Charlotte, you're a blessing! And I could understand perfect English! Perfectly, I understood it!

Charlotte: Well done you!

James: Thank you so much for letting us share this time and thanks a lot for your help.